

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: LANCE CARREIRA, Waldron, Ltd.; supervisor

Lancelot Carreira, Portuguese, was born in the Punchbowl area of Honolulu March 23, 1919. He was the fourth of six children. The family moved to Kaimuki for a time and then to Kakaako when Lance was about 15 years old. There, he attended Washington Intermediate and McKinley High Schools. He became active in sports, playing barefoot football, basketball, baseball, and volleyball. He also coached.

He worked for Liberty House, Honolulu Iron Works and Waldron, Ltd., where he is still employed.

TIME LINE

1919	birth: Punchbowl, Oahu
1934	played barefoot football
1941	married
1950	coached Boulevard A. C. team
1955	quit playing and coaching sports

Tape No. 3-21-1-78 and 3-22-1-78

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Lance Carreira (LC)

January 18, 1978

BY: Perry Nakayama (PN)

PN: This is an interview with Mr. Lance Carreira on January 18, 1978, in his home in Makakilo. Mr. Carreira, could you tell us a little bit about your parents?

LC: Well, first of all, let's cut out the formality. I don't like to be called Mr. Carreira; my name is Lance. My father's name was August Carreira and my mother's name, Rosie. My dad worked for the City for quite awhile. He was a captain in the Police Department, then he worked at the City jail until his death. Both of them are no longer living. There are six of us in the family; three girls and three boys, including myself.

PN: You were what child?

LC: I'm the fourth.

PN: Where were you born?

LC: I was born in Punchbowl. Our family originated from the Punchbowl area; we moved to Kaimuki for a short while, and then later on, to Kakaako.

PN: So, when you moved to Kakaako, how old were you?

LC: I would say I was about 15 years old....somewhere around there.

PN: Do you know why your parents moved to Kakaako?

LC: Actually, things were pretty tight, money was scarce. My father's brothers and sisters were living in Kakaako at the time. It was sort of a family thing that everybody wanted to be pretty close to each other, and it was cheaper to live in Kakaako....nearer to town and easier to get around.

PN: Where was this house that you moved in?

LC: When we first moved to Kakaako, we lived on Cooke Street. It was

close to the playground that I hung around for quite awhile--Mother Waldron Park.

PN: How long did you folks live there?

LC: Oh, we lived there approximately 10 years.

PN: What about this house? Was it---you moved in with your father's brother or something?

LC: No, we lived in a house by ourselves. Our own family, my mother, father, brothers and sisters.

PN: Who were your neighbors, like that? You know, who lived around you folks?

LC: Well, we had all different types of nationalities. Portuguese, Hawaiians, Japanese. At that particular time, we were living pretty close to the Fujiekis, who are now the Star Market people. We also had a lot of other Japanese friends that lived close to us.

PN: What family were you folks close to, I guess?

LC: Actually, in Kakaako, everybody seemed to be close to each other, let's put it that way. It was more like a family thing. We were mostly in tight with our own family. In other words, my aunties and uncles.

PN: Oh, you would go over their house?

LC: Yeah, we'd go over their house and majority of the time, we'd hang around the playground.

PN: So your friends that you made in Kakaako, were they through your family, or through some kind of playground kids, or what?

LC: Actually, the first friends that I made in Kakaako was when I started school at Washington Intermediate. We all lived near each other, and as I mentioned, money was scarce, so we all walked to school together. We played around the park and church grounds. Neighbors were pretty close, and like I say, everybody was kind of friendly with each other; neighbors were all like family.

PN: Did you folks do things together, like your family would go together to church or something like that?

LC: We had family gatherings where we went to church together in a group or did some kind of project, like making Portuguese sausage, sweetbread, or something like that. Some of the families got together to share some of the traditional things.

PN: How often would this be?

LC: Oh, once in awhile. Not quite often, but it was usually on a Sunday.

PN: Where did you hang around, I guess? Where was your favorite hang-out when you were going to intermediate school?

LC: Well, first I used to hang around the St. Agnes Church grounds, where mostly the Portuguese boys hung out. A lot of those kids went to school with me. We were in almost the same classes, and we hung around quite a bit together. We played various sports, like touch-and-pass, basketball, stuff like that, in those church grounds. I then drifted away to Mother Waldron Park, and spent a lot of my time there.

PN: Oh, you guys were known as one of the people who gathered around the park, like that?

LC: Yes. It was somewhat divided into sections, more or less. Church kids played at the church grounds. The beachboys had their gang down by the Kewalo incinerator--they did a lot of fishing, diving and surfing out there. Then you had the boys in the Japanese camps--they liked baseball, basketball, and they came around the park to play. There was another group that hung around the gym. You seldom came across people that kept to themselves--kids were close to each other.

PN: So there were like four or five areas where you guys used to hang around?

LC: Just about that, yeah.

PN: So there were the people who hung around the beach. I don't know if you guys called yourself the church group, or....(Laughs)

LC: We actually hung around the church for a couple of years, then drifted over to the playground, because our life was centered around sports, mostly. The recreation department at the playground had a pretty good program going all the time, and they let us use their equipment. They had good directors who always took good care of us and kept us busy at various sports. We went out to different playgrounds to compete and participate in different activities. That's the reason the playground was so attractive to us at the time.

PN: So you were like the playground group? There was a Kawaiahao gym group?

LC: Yes.

PN: What other groups were there? The Japanese camp?

LC: Yeah, the Japanese camp kids came around the park every now and then to play. Everybody used to get together once in awhile, but they were the gym people--strong in basketball and volleyball, indoor gym sports. Some of the time, they came to the playground to play with us. But most times, they used to keep a kind of a distance away from the playground and were closer to their own group. But we all got along pretty nicely. I had one Japanese boy--family actually, the Ikeharas--that was pretty close to me. At present, he's the coach at Kalani High School.

PN: Bob Ikehara?

LC: Bob Ikehara, yes. We were pretty close, pretty close.

PN: Like, what did you folks do?

LC: Well, his brother and I were almost as close as natural brothers. We'd go out together to the shows, go to the park, or take a walk uptown, and go down the beach, hitch a ride to Waikiki; anything that was cheap for recreation. Those were our amusements because money was tough to come by. We even went to the community singing nights at the Army and Navy YMCA. I think it was Monday nights.

PN: What was this like?

LC: People were organized into groups and we sang for the fun of it.

PN: What kind of songs?

LC: Any songs that were "hits" at that time.

PN: Where was this?

LC: The Army and Navy Y, downtown. Kakaako was close by, so we'd walk over.

PN: You folks just walk over?

LC: Just walk over.

PN: What kind of people would come to sing, like that?

LC: Oh, all kinds. People that lived around town, and some service people used to come around.

PN: Oh, you folks heard about it?

LC: You hear about it, and you hear it's free, so you go. Someplace to go, something to do, make new friends.

PN: Did you folks perform someplace?

LC: No, we didn't perform. Just went along, sang and had a good time.

PN: What else you used to do with the Ikehara boys? Used to eat together?

LC: We ran around quite a bit together, and he'd come over to our house all the time. Just like I said, he's like one of the family. Walk into the house, feel like eating, just sit down and eat. And when we went to his house, it was the same.

(Laughter)

LC: People at that time were a lot closer than they are today--more close knit. Everybody knew everybody, and everybody trusted everybody. No such thing as robbing your house and stuff like that. If you came home in the evening and you saw your light on, that only meant that one of your friends were in the house, nothing unusual. You know what I mean?

PN: Just your neighbor over there?

LC: Yeah. That's how it went. And we used to go to the Huihui's house quite a bit, too. They lived on Queen Street at that time. They were kind of nice to the people around there. In fact, they were instrumental in getting me to stick with sports and stay with the group--the kids in Kakaako--as I got older. 'Cause as time went on, as we got older, competition was getting better and the competition from the outside was getting tougher. Mama Huihui used to tell me all the time, "Well, you just stay where you are. You Kakaako boy, stay Kakaako where you belong." So I never left there, and I stayed there until my playing days were just about over.

PN: When did you begin playing barefoot football, I guess?

LC: Oh, I would say when I was about 15 or 16 years old, when I was in junior high. As I recall, we had what was called a 140-pound league....that was way back. I played in that first. I must have been a ninth grader at the time. I'm not sure....was quite a time back.

(PN laughs)

PN: This was for the Kakaako Sons?

LC: No. Each team had different names; we called ourselves Mother Waldron. We didn't do too well, though; everybody beat us. But we had a lot of fun. I played at Washington Intermediate too. At that time, they did have a football team.

PN: At Washington Intermediate?

LC: Yeah. And I didn't do too good there either!

PN: You folks would play, what, other intermediate schools?

LC: Uh huh. And after that, I played my junior year at McKinley--my junior and senior years. I was on the championship team in our senior year. We went to the Mainland and then played two games there. And after that, I played for Kakaako Sons. They were an older and physically bigger group. They had no age or weight requirement; it was unlimited.

PN: Oh, is this the barrelweight?

LC: No, it was an unlimited division, and they were damn good. In fact, they were too good for us....the first time around, we couldn't make the team.

After we got out of high school, there wasn't any other league open to us, so we had to play in that one. So we took our marks around. The league was pretty rough. We then started out on our own. I went into an older age group. When I came out of high school, I played with guys that were a little older than I was. They were also more experienced than I was.

PN: They were in the twenties, like that?

LC: Yes. And they were good. They had pretty good ball players. We had Ah Sing, Ho, Lopez, and Mossman. All good ball players. Don Ho's father was involved before our time.

PN: This was the Kakaako Sons?

LC: That was the Kakaako Sons.

PN: Going back to the Mother Waldron team, who was the coach for that?

LC: When we first started, we had Pulawa, Ben Pulawa as our coach. He was quite instrumental in getting us started, too. In those days, you had to find some way of raising your own entrance fee, paying for your own jerseys, and whatever. You'd sell something.

PN: This would be as a team you'd go selling?

LC: Yeah, the team.

PN: How did you get to play on the team? Did they ask you to come out?

LC: You'd hear about the turnouts in the community.

PN: Oh, somebody would pass the word along.

LC: Yeah, They practiced in Mother Waldron playground. Since we were always playing around there, we tried out. That's where we first started.

PN: What position did you play?

LC: When I was in high school and when I first started playing football, I played center.

PN: For this Mother Waldron team?

LC: Mother Waldron and Kakaako Sons. Later on, I played quarterback.

PN: What kind of equipment did you have to buy, to play on the team?

LC: In the barefoot league, all you needed was shoulder pads, that's it. The rest was optional. In fact, I take that back, even shoulder pads were optional. Nothing was really required. It was left up to you.

PN: So what did you folks sell, or how did you folks raise it...

LC: A lot of times, we'd talk a merchant into giving us something to raffle, then we'd sell the tickets.

PN: Hold a raffle?

LC: Yes, hold a raffle.

PN: And with the money, you folks would buy...

LC: Buy the equipment--footballs. Later on, as we grew older, we'd go out and hustle a sponsor.

PN: Oh, you got sponsors. So, you played for this Mother Waldron team. What kind of teams did you folks play against?

LC: Mostly the different districts.

PN: Different districts?

LC: You know, like Palama.

PN: Different parks here?

LC: No, not really parks. More like districts, areas. We called ourselves Mother Waldron because that was our home away from home. It was not a playground league, although the playgrounds did have leagues that were going on all the time. They had softball and football; the players represented the playground. The recreation bus took them to and from the play sites.

PN: Oh, this would be the Parks and Recreation bus that takes you around?

LC: Yeah. It'll take you.

- PN: Oh, I see. And when would you play games?
- LC: After school, usually during the recreation times. But football was usually played on Sundays.
- PN: You'd practice during the week?
- LC: During the week, yes. Usually in the afternoon.
- PN: About what time?
- LC: Five o'clock. A lot of the people that were playing were older and they were working. So after their day's work, they used to come out and practice.
- PN: Oh, this is for the Kakaako Sons?
- LC: Yeah, that's for the older people.
- PN: But when you were playing for Mother Waldron, what? It was mostly young...
- LC: Yes, it was mostly young kids around. And there were some people that were working too. We used to start around 4:30 or 4:00.
- PN: Was there any kind of weight limit to this Mother Waldron team?
- LC: Yes, I think, at that time, it was 140 pounds. They had a weight division of some kind.
- PN: What kind of boys did you play with? You know, what nationality?
- LC: All mixed nationalities. Our team was built on all mixed nationalities.
- PN: Then after that, you went to McKinley, and then you played for the high school team?
- LC: Yes, I played for the high school team. I played only football in high school.
- PN: How did you get into football there?
- LC: Well, you felt that everybody you knew was on the team, and you liked football, so you just went and tried out.
- PN: Oh, they had tryouts?
- LC: Yes, they usually put up a bulletin saying tryouts were going to be on a certain day.
- PN: What position did you try out for?

LC: Center, I used to play center at that time.

PN: And what did you weigh?

LC: Oh, I was about 140 pounds.

PN: What was that? Average? Light?

LC: That was considered light for high school.

PN: What kind of other boys were playing?

LC: Oh, we had all kinds. We had a very good high school team. Johnny Naumu was one of our halfbacks. I believe he went on to the University of Southern California, if I'm not mistaken. We had Wayne Sterling, a good lineman; Kai Bon Chung, James Masa, a Fujita boy, Vernon Fernandez. We had a lot of good boys. Competition was really tough, those days.

PN: You were the only one from Kakaako?

LC: Yes, I was the only one.

PN: Where did most of the other boys come from?

LC: From all over the city. During those days, there weren't very many high schools. We had Roosevelt and Punahou, Leilehua was just coming up in the country. Farrington was just starting up.

PN: Who did you folks play? Punahou, Roosevelt, like that?

LC: Yeah. St. Louis, Kam, Iolani.

PN: Oh, private schools too? Who was you folks' coach at that time?

LC: At that time, Huluboki, Frank Huluboki was our coach.

PN: For the JV and the senior?

LC: No, on JV we had Kaiser Joy as one of the coaches. Our senior team was Huluboki, Barney Joy, and Herman Clark. They were our coaching staff.

PN: You folks went both ways? Offense and defense, you played?

LC: Yes....mostly everybody went both ways.

PN: And you played center on defense also?

LC: Yeah.

PN: Did you folks have shoulder pads, shoes, or anything?

LC: Yes. In high school, we were pretty well equipped. In fact, at McKinley, we were well equipped, we had everything.

PN: Who would provide this?

LC: The school would.

PN: Athletic Department?

LC: Uh huh.

PN: Even your shoes?

LC: Yes, you didn't buy anything. The school gave us everything. If I recall, we had mostly two of each; one for practice and one for game. Game uniforms and practice uniforms.

PN: Shoulder pads, helmet, everything?

LC: Yeah, we had everything complete. They equip you really well in high school. And we didn't have to pay for anything. When we went to the Mainland, they also paid for everything.

PN: Oh, they financed the trip to the Mainland?

LC: Financed everything. I think it was on a home and home series basis. The only thing we took was spending money.

PN: Who did you folks play up there?

LC: We played Bremerton and Lakeside.

PN: This is California teams?

LC: No, I think it was in Seattle.

PN: When did you folks practice?

LC: After school.

PN: Every day after school?

LC: Every day after school.

PN: For how long?

LC: Well, the football season usually runs until Thanksgiving. If you were fortunate enough to get in the Thanksgiving game, then that would be just about the end of the season.

PN: And then, when would you folks play games?

LC: Well, Saturday, sometime during the week nights.

PN: Week nights?

LC: Yes. Wednesday night or something.

PN: Where would all these games be held?

LC: Mostly at the stadium.

PN: What kind of offense you guys used to run? Was it mostly running or passing?

LC: Well, when we were playing---what are you talking about? High school?

PN: Yeah, high school ball.

LC: We were running on the single wing. We did a lot of running, a combination of running and passing. We had a good passer in Vernon Fernandez. We had good running backs. We had two good full backs--Lopez and Lam Ho. We had some good hands. We had two good teams. Competition was really tough.

PN: What about defense like that? You guys play zone or man-to-man?

LC: Usually, we played the six, seven.

PN: Oh, six man line, seven man line?

LC: Either box in the backfield or man-to-man; depending on the situation.

PN: At that time, what, was it mainly running game?

LC: A lot of teams did do a lot of running.

PN: And what about McKinley?

LC: McKinley was a mixture. As I said, they had pretty good passers. We also had good receivers like Costa, Willy Costa; he was considered to be one of the best. We had Boyd and Kaohano. We had the cream and they were good.

PN: Did you suffer any injuries or anything?

LC: Throughout my athletic career, I was kind of fortunate. I never got seriously banged up. Got ankle trouble once or twice, but that's about it. Nothing really serious where I had to miss any game. I consider that a little unusual.

PN: But if somebody on your team in McKinley, if they got hurt, what would happen? Would there be a team physician?

LC: Yeah, they always had a physician....they always had one.

PN: Was anybody seriously hurt when you played?

LC: No, I don't think so. I don't quite remember. We always had a team doctor handy. He had an office in town and we could go over any time we needed care. So we were pretty well taken care of in high school.

PN: They fed you well, too?

LC: Yes, they really fed us well.

PN: You guys had special lunch?

LC: Whenever we played on Saturday, we had a training table. We'd go down to the Y and have lunch over there. Usually, after lunch, they'd buy us some newspapers and we'd go back to the school and sit around and wait for game time.

PN: And what? The team bus would...

LC: The bus would take us to the stadium.

PN: How big were the crowds, I guess average size?

LC: Well, at that time, you don't pay very much attention to the crowds.

(PN laughs)

LC: They were pretty big. Our student body was big, because as I said, during those days, you never had Waipahu and all other schools. So most of the country kids went to the same school as the town kids.

PN: Lot of turnout?

LC: Yeah.

PN: Mainly students, or there would be lot of...

LC: Lot of students.

PN: Parents?

LC: Parents, outsiders. They had a good sized crowd. Of course, it depended on the game and who was playing. Just like with your group today, if the game is interesting, you go. But as a whole, it drew pretty well.

PN: What did your parents have to say about playing sports, like that?

LC: My father and mother never did stop us for participating in any sport. They always wanted us to play, as long as we kept up our studies.

PN: Oh, studies came first?

LC: Yes, my father was pretty strict on education. Maybe he didn't do a good job on me.

(Laughter)

LC: But as long as we did our homework and our chores, he wanted us to play.

PN: Come out and watch everytime?

LC: He used to come out and watch.

PN: What about your friends, like that? Were they proud of the fact that you sort of like represented Kakaako?

LC: Oh yeah. I think one experience I remember pretty well. When we went to the Mainland, in those days, we went by boat.

(PN laughs)

LC: Not like now. Today, they go by plane; we went by boat. And I think it was the President Coolidge. Yes, and I had about the biggest crowd that came out to see me off; and I was only a second string guy, I was nobody, actually. I had about the most kids seeing anybody off.

PN: They were from what? Kakaako?

LC: Kakaako, all walks of life. We had a Hawaiian boy who had a really nice voice, and when he sang, it really was a smash hit.

PN: Was this down...

LC: Down at the pier. In those days, when a boat came in, it was a big deal. The boats came kind of often. And being at Kakaako, we were near the waterfront, so all the kids came down to the pier to see me off. I had so many leis that you'd think I was a big star; and here I was, just a second stringer on the team, just another guy.

PN: This championship team, what year was this?

LC: 1937.

PN: Did the school throw any kind of banquet, or anything like that, to honor you folks as champs?

LC: Well, they gave us a gold medal and they did have a banquet at school at the end of the year. In fact, I'm pretty sure that we won mostly all the sport events that year; that was the clean sweep year. We had good baseball and basketball teams.

PN: Basketball?

LC: We had the Omiya boys who were good in baseball. We had Harry Chang and Clement Ching in basketball; they were good too. We had a good team in nearly every sport that year.

PN: How did you folks do on the Mainland?

LC: We won one and lost one. I'm not sure, I forgot. It's been so long. The field was pretty muddy and it was hard to play. We weren't used to that kind of weather. I'm not making excuses, those guys were really good and they were big! But I still think that maybe on a dry field we would have won.

PN: So, when you got out of high school, what did you do?

LC: When I got of high school, I worked for Liberty House for awhile, and I played basketball and football too. I played basketball in the businessman's league.

PN: You were the what? What position did you play?

LC: I was playing guard.

PN: Who coached?

LC: We had a Chinese coach. I forget his name. Maybe Tai Sing, or something similar. He was a good coach. All the coaches that I had were good. I was fortunate because they all taught me a lot.

PN: Who did you folks play?

LC: We played different companies uptown.

PN: Like?

LC: I think during that time, we played Hawaiian Electric and the Transit.

PN: Oh, Honolulu Rapid Transit?

LC: Honolulu Rapid Transit, yes. Theo H. Davis and some of the other companies too.

PN: Then what? You played with the Kakaako Sons also, after you graduated?

- LC: Yeah, after that. The following year, after playing for Liberty House, I played for Davies. Played basketball in the businessman's league. That year we did all right. We took the championship. We didn't have many individual stars but we had a hard working team. Bill Bonnell was our coach and he was a good one.
- PN: You played for the Liberty House team and then the next year you played for Theo H. Davies?
- LC: Yes.
- PN: The Liberty House team, were there any other Kakaako people there?
- LC: We had three people, we had Robello and George Yap. I guess he was one of the top players around Kakaako in softball and basketball. He was a good basketball player, and pretty fast. Him and Naito. Naito was good, too.
- PN: Maurice Naito [another interviewee]?
- LC: Maurice Naito, yes. He was quite good.
- PN: How did you get your job with Liberty House?
- LC: Well, some of the gang was working at Liberty House and they asked me if I wanted to work there so I could play basketball with them, too.
- (Laughter)
- LC: So I went to work for Liberty House.
- PN: Is that how a lot of people got jobs?
- LC: During those days, yes. A lot of athletes got jobs that way. But when I left Liberty House for Honolulu Iron Works, it wasn't because of sports, the pay was better. Then, they formed a team there.
- PN: Oh, this is Theo H. Davies?
- LC: Yes. They were affiliated with Davies, so they asked me to play.
- PN: So who was coaching this Davies team?
- LC: As I mentioned earlier, Bill Bonnell was our coach.
- PN: And was there any other Kakaako boys on the team?
- LC: No, I was the only one. We had boys from around the nearby areas; you know, the outskirts of Kakaako. In fact, most of the boys on that team had been playing against each other in different leagues.

There were a lot of leagues going on all the time. For example, Palama had a league, and the playgrounds had leagues. Oh, I beg your pardon, we had one kid, Salvador, that played with us on the Davies team. He was from Kakaako and we played in the playgrounds as kids.

PN: Where would you folks play your games, like that?

LC: At that time, we played at the university gym.

PN: About approximately how many games you guys played?

LC: Oh gee, I think about eight.

PN: Did a lot of people turn out for this kind of games also?

LC: It wasn't too big a crowd, but the games were good. During those days, a lot of people used to go and sit and watch basketball games to pass the time.

PN: Did the company back you guys up, like that, or couple of people...

LC: Some used to come, but not too many.

PN: These people more interested in basketball, they'd come out to watch?

LC: Yes, if people were interested in it they would come out.

PN: Not like high school kind crowd?

LC: No, not to that extent.

PN: At that time, I guess, what kind of offense you guys used to run? Was it "run and gun" kind of thing, or more passing the basketball?

LC: We used to run a lot of fast breaks. Basketball today is a little bit different. In our days, when the ball went out of bounds, the referee didn't have to touch the ball, so...

PN: Oh, you just grab the ball...

LC: Just grab the ball, then put it back in play. We did an awful lot of fast breaking. The forwards were very fast.

PN: Were you a point guard?

LC: Guard, yes point guard. Well, playmaking.

PN: And when you folks played defense, what was; more into zone, or...

LC: Zone and mostly man-to-man; designated man, they assigned a man to you.

Like, when we were at Davies, they would tell you who you were going to watch when you played a certain team. So you'd go out and watch how he played. You would follow him all over the court; then if he manages to get away from you and you can't keep up, a change would be made.

PN: They bench you? (Laughs)

LC: No, they change you around and assign you to a slower guy.

PN: Oh.

LC: But the next time you go out to practice, the guys on the team needle you 'cause you overplayed.

PN: Coaches used to drive you guys hard?

LC: They used to put us in good condition, let me put it that way. In man-to-man, you have to be in top condition; lots of running.

PN: What about equipment like that? Uniforms? The company would provide all of this?

LC: Yes, in the businessman's league they provide everything. But you did have to furnish your own shoes.

PN: Did you guys get any kind of special meal before the game?

LC: No, we just played for the fun of it. At the end of the season, the company would usually give a party or banquet, or something of that sort.

PN: Going back to playing for the Kakaako Sons, how did you get involved with them?

LC: Like I said, hanging around the park. When you played ball in high school, you could not play in other leagues. The next bracket up would be the senior league--senior barefoot. The better boys were playing in it....more experienced. So it was either play in that league or don't play at all.

PN: 'Cause you're barred from the...

LC: Yeah, you cannot join the lower league. They had a 140 and a 120-pound class. Atkinson had a good ball club in the 120-pound class.

PN: So this senior league you played for, was there any kind of weight limit?

LC: At that time, there was no weight limit; I'm pretty sure of that.

PN: Was this barefoot also?

LC: Yeah, it was barefoot. Our games were played at the stadium, for the most part.

PN: Who was coaching you folks?

LC: Well, our first year out, Julian Judd was the coach. And the second year, we had Sam Kapu [another interviewee]. Both were outstanding coaches. Just before that, they had a string of championships. They had all the good boys during those years.

PN: This was in the late 1930's, early 1940's?

LC: Yeah, the late 1930's. They were good; in fact, we didn't have a chance to make that team, that's for sure. Those guys were great.

END OF SIDE ONE

SIDE TWO

PN: Did you guys get to go out and watch the Kakaako Sons play?

LC: When they were playing, a bunch of the guys would go down to the stadium and climb over the fence to get in. We just didn't have the money to walk through the front door!

(Laughter)

PN: You were about how old, what? Intermediate?

LC: Yes, intermediate [school] age.

PN: So you'd watch the Kakaako Sons play?

LC: Yeah, watch the Kakaako Sons, the older boys, play. That's the only way we could manage to get in. Even the streetcars; we'd jump on the streetcar going down to the stadium, and when the conductor came around to collect the fare, we'd jump off.

(PN laughs)

LC: You know kids, kind of rascal. Then, we walked the rest of the way. But people got to know us pretty well and were nice to us. They pretended not to see us but we knew darn well we weren't fooling them. Why, even the stadium people were nice to us.

PN: When you were young, staying mainly around Kakaako district, how often would you leave that area; maybe to see a game or for whatever reason?

LC: We went to all the games that were good. We also went to the fights all the time, at the old Civic Auditorium. We'd go to watch boxing if the Kakaako boys were fighting, or any acquaintance, or if we knew it would be a good match. We went to the stadium quite often; we went to all the events. Sports was our life. Everybody was interested in sports, even the old folks.

PN: Fights would be held, what, nighttime, daytime?

LC: Mostly nighttime.

PN: Weekends also?

LC: Weekends, sometimes Mondays. Amateurs, in those days, used to be on Mondays. The kids that were fighting on Mondays were usually friends of ours. Guys that grew up in the same area, like Miyamura and the Akeos and Kikuyamas and Tiwanak; they all played softball, basketball, and football for us.

PN: They used to box also?

LC: Yes, they boxed too. So naturally, when they fight, we go.

PN: So most of the time you'd be hanging around the park area, but if there was some kind of event outside--mainly sporting events, I guess--then you'd leave the Kakaako area?

LC: Yeah, just like anybody else.

PN: So you remember how much the fights used to cost?

LC: Oh gee, I don't even remember. But I know we paid about 15 cents to get into the moviehouse.

PN: You guys could sneak into the Civic Auditorium?

LC: Oh, we used to get in all the time.

PN: Sneak in?

LC: Yeah, there was always a way, we'd get in. As time went on, a lot of the fight managers knew us, so when they saw us outside, they gave us a ticket.

PN: Rascals.

LC: Yes. You know how kids are, but it as all meant in fun. Today, maybe things are different. Everything is so different. Comparing our days, everybody got along just fine with everybody else. Everybody respected everybody else. You'd sneak in and the doorman would shake you up. We'd take it and walk away. Today, you can't do that, everybody jumps all over you.

PN: Going back to the Kakaako Sons, like that, is this when you started playing quarterback?

LC: No, when I started with the Kakaako Sons I was still playing center.

PN: When did you become quarterback?

LC: I first started when I played in the church league. Two years after that I played for Kakaako Sons, then the next year came around, I was a little bit older than the kids around the corner. I heard there was going to be a barrel weight league. Kapahulu was organizing a team so I was going to play for them. The coach that started the team--George Joaquin (everybody called him "Mynah bird" because he's so talkative)--came and asked me, "Hey, we thinking about starting a team. How about come play for us. Why don't you play quarterback for us. You got experience in football." I was about the only experienced player because I played in high school. So I agreed. Of course, we didn't get paid but it was closer for me to practice down in my own area instead of going to Kapahulu.

So George and Ernest Peterson--the manager--raised the funds. I don't know how he raised it. He got something from the church, scraped here and scraped there and managed to put the team together. We had kids that didn't have too much experience. We had a mixture of all different nationalities and started from there. That's when I played quarterback. My kid brother played center. So it was a brothers act. When I left the center position, I gave it to my brother--nobody else!

(Laughter)

LC: All kidding aside, he did play center and did a good job of it. He was considered to be one of the best in the islands.

PN: This is barrel weight league?

LC: No, church league. We played in the senior league, too.

PN: This church league?

LC: No, after that. We went on, played football and played in the senior league. We also played in the Shrine game. We started from there and played on for almost three years--1940, 1941, 1942.

PN: This is what league?

LC: Church league. Then it disbanded due to the war years, around 1942, I think. After that, we began playing senior barefoot.

PN: This George Joaquin, this church league, what other teams did you folks play?

LC: Different districts. People would represent their churches. Mostly, it was people went to church and then played in their own district.

PN: Oh, this was like CYO [Catholic Youth Organization]?

LC: Yeah, something like it. The Pedro boys, Kaulukukuis, George Rodriguez, Ray Lee, they all played in that league. They had teams from St. Anthony in Kalihi, Sacred Heart, St. Patrick in Kaimuki, and even St. Ann's.

PN: How did you folks do in that league?

LC: We won the championship the whole time we were in the league.

PN: Sounds good.

LC: Yeah, we did all right, considering that the kids we had didn't have much experience. We played an interisland game and won that game too.

PN: So you folks didn't have to come up with any fund raiser or anything like this? This guy Joaquin did all of it?

LC: No, he was our coach; Peterson took care of the financing. He was the manager.

PN: How was he connected to the church?

LC: He lived close to the church and hung around the church most of his life. He knew a lot of people living close by. They all lived on Kawaiahao Street and Queen Street. The Portuguese lived on Queen Street--the Mattos, the Alves, the Garcias, and the Souzas. Some are still living there.

PN: You folks moved from Cooke Street to Queen Street later on?

LC: Yes, later on we moved to Queen Street.

PN: When was this?

LC: Oh, that was about 10 years after I lived there. Oh, I would say it was in the late 1940's, early 1950's, or something like that.

PN: So at this time, you were living on Cooke Street, when you were playing in this church league and Kakaako Sons?

LC: Yes.

PN: You know, on that Kakaako Sons team, Sam Kapu took over on the second year, like that. Was he the one that taught you more....I guess, he was a center, right, down...

LC: Yes, we were close too. He also hung around the district. He was one of the beachboys who called themselves the Hawaiian Divers; I guess you might have heard of them. That group had the Pungs and the Hos. They dived for coins for a living. Sam helped me out quite a bit. In fact, he was with us for a while; he coached in the Senior League too.

PN: The senior barefoot is this Boulevard AC?

LC: Yes. He was a pretty smart coach. He led us to a string of victories. After Joaquin left us in the church league, Dutchy Freitas took over.

PN: In your Kakaako Sons league, when were the games played?

LC: Sundays mostly.

PN: Where would they play, like that?

LC: We played on different fields, like St. Louis School. This is the church league you're talking about?

PN: Talking about the church league, yeah.

LC: We played maybe in Makiki or Kaneohe, like that.

PN: Who would be---I guess the person who got all these---kept the churches together?

LC: Who coordinated the thing? To tell you the truth, I can't remember. It's quite a time back. Frank Goeas was always with the CYO recreation, but I can't remember if he had anything to do with football.

PN: Oh, I see. I don't know if you can compare playing for high school, the barefoot--Kakaako Sons--your church league, like that. Was there any difference the way people coached you?

LC: Yes, there was quite a bit of difference. I noticed when I left high school and turned out for Kakaako Sons under Julian Judd, they treat you more like a man. They told you what to do, if you didn't want to, fine; they just left you back. You know what I mean? In high school, everything was cut and dried and they just pushed you. For example, the coach at McKinley would say, "Go take three laps when you start practice."

But with Sam, or with Julian Judd, you would ask, "Well, how many laps?"

They would say, "Take what you need 'cause you're going to play, not me."

During those days, McKinley used to go to the Mainland just about every other year. They used to do quite a bit of traveling. A good majority of kids went there. We had a good bunch of kids. The coaches were all right. They knew what they were doing. But molding a handful of greenhorns into a team is quite a bit different than molding a handful of good boys into a team. That's what I'm trying to drive at. When we were young, a lot of the kids played sand-lot football. In sand-lot ball, nobody has rules. Everytime somebody gets mad, there's a fight. No rules, no proper blocking. A lot of the kids were too small to play high school ball. I was considered small, but some of the kids that played with us in the church league were even smaller than I was. I was considered to be one of the bigger kids and I wasn't very big. We played in a 150-pound division and I was about 140 pounds. We had one Japanese boy playing tackle who weighed only about 125 pounds; he was pretty tough. There was another Japanese boy, only about 120 pounds, playing guard and he was tough. We had Rocha, Shimabukuro and Tanabe; all good and all about 130 pounds. So you see, it's hard to compare. If you play on a good team where everybody is established already, coaching would be different. When you get through school and go play in the senior league, you'll be playing with guys maybe 25, 30 years old; and they're really strong and tough. They're hard working people who practice football after they get through working. These guys used to practice till dark under floodlights. That's the caliber of guys you'd play, and these guys were tough. When they hit you, you'd know you being hit. Then, when came to practice and didn't hustle, Kapu put you against somebody tough in scrimmaging; then you'd know that you'd really have to hustle after that because then you'd know what it was really all about. Again, that's the difference. In high school, everybody is young and eager, and they follow the coach right to the tee. With barefoot football, the guys were tough, more experienced, more sabe. Some of these guys played in high school for three years and maybe another five years in barefoot.

PN: What about styles---not necessarily style, but different kinds of strategy, game plan, like that. Running, or---was there any difference there?

LC: When we got played for St. Agnes, we had a small team; we always had a small team. Our team was built around passing. We had good runners but the majority of our plays was passing. We used trick plays.

PN: What were you; a drop-back passer or roll out?

LC: We played single wing and double wing, and we ran from the T-formation. We had wing back and double slot formation, just like you'd see now in the Dallas Cowboys; something like that.

PN: Oh, the shotgun?

LC: Something like the shotgun. Single wing is similar to that. And double wing is something like the shotgun, too. I was the quarterback,

so I'm kind of in a running position where I pass and run. Our system was wide open, we never had much of a pre-arranged game plan.

PN: Called your own plays?

LC: We called our own plays. The coach would send in plays but not to the extent of football today. Now, the quarterback is just a messenger boy. He just gets his instructions from the sidelines. During our day, the coach would call a play if he felt yours would not work or if you needed help. In fact, the ruling was that you could not substitute freely. Now, you are allowed free substitution and you can give messages. Before, you couldn't talk when you came in.

PN: So how would you substitute?

LC: During time-outs, you could; and after the one play, you could relay messages. Our coach designed all the plays. We had a play that I don't think I've ever seen done anywhere else in football. We had what was called a "center special," where the center would throw a pass. The halfback would run through the line and he would hand me the ball (I was the quarterback). I was set up in the back of the guard. He'd give me the ball, I'd pivot around, the center would come back and I'd hand him the ball. He would drop back and throw a pass down the field. Most of the time, that play would work.

My brother was the center and could throw a long pass; I couldn't throw the ball very long. He could throw about 50 yards without strain. That particular play was designed when we were horsing around during practice one day. The first time we tried that play during a game, we had Adrian DeMello, Ted Nobriga, Norman Kauaihilo as officials; and good ones they were. It all happened so fast they didn't know what was going on and they asked us to try it again so they could figure out if it was legal or not. That's the type of plays we had. Everything was wide open; we never actually had a game plan. Sometime, we'd pass on first down. At other times, maybe on our two-yard line, we'd throw a pass. Our theory was to get the opponents off balance. Sometimes it would backfire and the fans would scream bloody murder! The spectators would yell, "This guy, what is he doing? Is he nuts or something?"

PN: Look like you guys wen enjoy yourselves?

LC: Yes, we used to have a lot of fun. When you're the quarterback, if you do something that really gets the other guys caught flatfooted, the spectators cheer that you're the smartest guy in the world. But when you botch up, they scream twice as loud. None of it ever really bothered me; I let it go in one ear and out the other. My wife used to watch me play and she'd get mad if anybody ran me down. I'd tell her, "So what? Next game they'll talk nice about me. Don't give it a thought. You can't satisfy everybody all the time."

If you're the quarterback and you've got 10 other people in the huddle looking at you, it's not always easy trying to figure out what play

will work at that particular time. That's why I feel sympathetic for some quarterbacks.

PN: Let me ask you about---you played baseball, you said.

LC: Softball.

PN: What team did you play for?

LC: I played in a sponsored league. We played in what was called a 14-inch league. It was an open league, the ball was bigger, the bases up closer. Honolulu Laundry, Honolulu Sweet Shop, Primo, Palace Amusement; we had all kinds of people during the time sponsoring us. He had 14-inch ball and only the catcher and the first baseman wore gloves. You didn't need anything else.

PN: What time was this? What year?

LC: About 1936, 1937, 1938, around there. We played during school time. There was a park in Beretania; it's a parking lot now.

PN: So it was an open league?

LC: Open leagues, yeah. "Open" meant that nobody was barred from playing. They had other kinds of leagues--junior league, novice, open.

PN: These sponsors like Primo and...

LC: And others, we had all kinds.

PN: You would be players mainly from Kakaako?

LC: Mostly, yes.

PN: And who would go out and get the sponsors?

LC: You'd get a hustler and make him your manager. He'd be the guy with the good gab, good talker, and he would get you good equipment.

PN: When you folks were playing, who was the manager.

LC: We had a kid named Alfred "Fatboy" Farias who played and hustled sponsors for us too. Ricky sponsored us so often he was like our manager. He sponsored all types of sports.

PN: Kurosu?

LC: Kurosu. He spent a lot of money on us kids. There were some Japanese people from Kakaako who had sweet shops. The kids hung around their stores and they, in turn, spent a lot of money sponsoring teams to help the kids out.

PN: So in this 14-inch league, there was only the catcher and the first baseman that had gloves?

LC: Yes. The rest played without gloves. Oh, during those particular days, we had many different coaches. Some I coached and some a number of other guys.

PN: You were a coach-player, too?

LC: Yes, because I was older than some of the other kids.

PN: So in this open league, was teams from different districts?

LC: Yes, they were.

PN: On the softball league, what kind of people played with you?

LC: All kinds; mixed nationalities. The Japanese boys were good in softball. We had recreation leagues, park leagues and sponsored leagues, so you can see the kids were kept pretty well occupied.

PN: Oh, there'd be more than one league going on at one time?

LC: All the time, yes. Sometime your schedule would be pretty heavy. Sometimes you'd be playing in two leagues at one time. Frankie Gomes ran a softball league and he would call me, "Eh Lance, our league is going to start. You want to come in?"

"Yeah, okay," I'd say. Then somebody else would get in touch with me about another league, and as long as it was another day, I'd join that one too.

PN: So you were what? A catcher?

LC: No, my brother was the catcher, I played shortstop.

PN: Fast pitch kind, yeah?

LC: Real fast. My brother was the type that wouldn't use a mask. He'd get smashed sometimes.

PN: From the foul ball?

LC: Yes. But he had a sharp eye.

PN: What were you noted for? Hitting or fielding?

LC: Nothing spectacular; a little of both. But the open league was considered to be one of the better leagues with better player material. We had novice leagues, junior leagues, senior leagues. Now days, they do not seem to have as many different leagues, I notice. Kids about 17 to 23 do not seem to have these things to occupy their evenings. We had games going on all the time.

PN: Seems like you guys was always playing sports.

LC: We were always involved in something. It was always from one sport to another, from one league to another. I worked for the recreation part-time for about three years. I started this when I was going to McKinley. I was in the NYA school program for a while, then they'd field you out to different areas. That's about the time there was an opening at Mother Waldron.

PN: What kind of program was this?

LC: NYA, I believe it was. National Youth's Administration, or something like that. It was a government program; you'd work so many hours for x-number of dollars a month. You'd work at school first, then you'd be transferred to a playground. Since I hung around Mother Waldron park all the time, when there was an opening I got the job.

PN: You help run the team?

LC: Yes. We had teams all the time and different leagues....always the kids were busy. We also had basketball. Ernest Yamane ran the league, he's a lawyer uptown now. Ernest was one of the recreation workers. He was going to school and working in the evenings. We ran a lot of leagues. We made the leagues cheap enough so all the kids could come in. We'd get officiating for nothing and get someone else to keep score for free to help keep the cost down.

PN: So you were one of those that coordinated schedules...

LC: Help, help.

PN: You help coordinate the schedule.

LC: Ernest did a lot of that. We had Albert Azavedo and a lot of other playground directors doing the same thing.

PN: How would you folks go about that? Just go to the different playgrounds, talk to the people?

LC: Yes, pass the word around or send out a bulletin of some kind.

PN: With the entrance fee, what would you folks use that money for?

LC: Awards, things like that.

Yeah, usually the trophies like that. Now everybody gets paid; we did a lot of the work and the kids helped too. They'd help referee to keep the expenses down.

PN: They didn't have any kind of hassle?

LC: Oh, we had our share. Sometimes, the kids grumbled at you. We had what we called a house league. We called it the old man league. We had the playground kids and other kids that had moved out of the area, they all came back to play. We divided all the kids up in teams, and match each kid by his ability. For instance, take two kids that weren't too good, we'd give them the same numbers. In other words, maybe four lousy guys would all be number "1." Four captains would each end up with one of those "1's."

PN: Oh, so you'd balance out the teams?

LC: Yes. We'd pay a dollar and all the kids would also pay a dollar. At the end of the season, we'd have a big chop suey dinner; the winning team would eat for free and the rest would have to pay. Those kids played as though they were playing for something grand. Losing was something else! We sure had a lot of fun.

PN: So there was a lot of rivalry, then?

LC: Yeah, nobody wanted to lose. It was things we wanted to do, things we enjoyed. Everybody had good fun. In Kakaako during the time I'm talking about, we had all kinds of recreational sports going on all the time.

PN: When you were helping to run this league, how old were the boys you were helping?

LC: They were all from high school ages and some a little bit...

PN: Just about your age, then, at that time?

LC: Younger; I was already through school and working. I was about 24 or 25, I guess.

PN: So there would be just kids from different districts?

LC: When we played in the house leagues, those were only our kids--kids that hung around the playground. But sometimes, Kaimuki would run a league, Phil Anser would run a league, or Kalihi would run a league, then we'd go in....then Kakaako would run a league.

PN: You know, if you can look overall, you know, your playing football, like that, was there lot of fights in that?

LC: I tell you something, there were fights. Sometimes it was minor, other times it got pretty bad. But somebody was always there to keep it under control. Those days, if you were mad at somebody you go under the bleachers and that was it.

PN: Have it out?

LC: Have it out, shake hands and forget it. Around the park it was the same way. Say two guys had a misunderstanding, they'd go in the school yard, fight for nothing then shake hands and that's it.

PN: How about when you were playing, I guess, any of the sport; did you ever see fights among the fans?

LC: When you're playing, you only seemed to be concerned about the game. You don't have time to look around to see what's happening. I guess if you're looking all around, the fans will think you want to be noticed, or might have the impression that you think you're big; so you just do your thing and walk out.

PN: You said you played volleyball.

LC: Yeah, we played volleyball.

PN: What was that like? What kind of league was it?

LC: They also had junior and senior leagues. The senior leagues were for the boys that were really good. The teams from the recreation center was good. They had the Akeos and Huihuis.

PN: This is the Kawaiahao gym?

LC: Yeah, that's the one.

PN: That's where you guys used to practice?

LC: Yes, that's when we played indoors. There were outdoor leagues, too. We played in the junior league, a class lower than the big boys. We had a pretty good team in that division.

PN: Who was your coach?

LC: We had Azavedo and Huihui. In all the sports I played, I find volleyball the hardest. Practice becomes monotonous and Bill had to push us. We'd sit around the corner by the theatre and here would come Billy Huihui. He was big, tough. He used to drive us to practice and that's how we stuck to volleyball. But we played in a lot of these leagues with a lot of different sponsors. We had American Sanitary Laundry sponsoring us one year and Boulevard another time.

PN: What were you?

LC: Feeder.

PN: Setter?

LC: Yes, setter. Volleyball setter. I was the captain. We had good slammers.

END OF SIDE TWO

SIDE THREE [Tape No. 3-22-1-78]

PN: So far as equipment goes, all you needed was what? Just a ball?

LC: Uniforms.

PN: What about shoes, like that?

LC: Shoes were optional. Up to you.

PN: Some guys played barefooted?

LC: Some did. I played barefooted. Keep in mind that we were raised around the park, everybody played barefoot in most everything. We played barefooted even in the outdoor court. It got pretty hot, too. When we played in the businessman's league--the faster league--we had to wear shoes. You either wore shoes or you didn't play.

PN: How many players did you folks have on you guys' team?

LC: We usually carried about 19 or 11.

PN: Would you folks have tryouts and things like that?

LC: Anybody would be welcome, but usually, a few guys would come back each year.

PN: They would come out regularly?

LC: We would have about the same people all the time. Volleyball was mostly the older, married type; it wasn't young kids or high school age kids. Some of us played together for three or four years. One or two guys would drop off and somebody else would come out. So the team just kept on going.

PN: When would you folks practice?

LC: Afternoon or evening. Whenever it would be convenient for the boys and the coach.

PN: When would you guys play games?

LC: Sometimes we'd play week nights or Saturdays. Most of the time it was week nights.

PN: Mostly indoors too?

LC: Yes. One league, we played out. I believe it was Kalihi. Most of the time, we played at the Central and Nuuanu YMCA.

PN: And you were playing against what? Other districts?

LC: For the most part. We kept running across the same people all the time, though. A lot of the kids played in more than one sport, or you went to school with them, or worked around the neighborhood with them. Like now, things are so crowded, you don't get to see people as frequently as in the past.

PN: What about---how was the crowd like that?

LC: Depended on the game, but usually it was not a big turnout.

PN: They would charge admission like that?

LC: There was no charge. We played at Palama gym, Army or Navy YMCA, wherever we could get a gym.

PN: In all the sports you played like that, you folks do anything after the game? Get together, have a few beers?

LC: Oh yes. But the truth is, during my younger days, I was not much of a drinker. In fact, I didn't start drinking till I was about 30.

PN: After you quit playing sports?

LC: Just about. I was still playing football around 1947, I think. I was already kind of up in age and every year I figured this would be my last one. Finally, I dropped football but stayed with basketball, volleyball and softball.

PN: The less contact sports?

LC: Yes. Then I went into coaching. I was coaching football, barefoot, 150-pounds.

PN: This is Boulevard AC?

LC: Yes.

PN: How long were you coaching?

LC: About four or five years.

PN: How did the teams do?

LC: They did all right. They took championship one year, and one year we were runner-up.

PN: When was this about?

LC: About the 1950's, I think.. It was around there.

PN: I don't know if you can say, but could you guess or estimate how much of the boys living in Kakaako during that time got involved in one or more sports, let's say?

LC: I would say that in our area alone, it was about a hundred kids. But the district was spread out and boys came from the outskirts. But the majority of the boys from the Kakaako area participated in one way or another.

PN: You got married in 1941?

LC: Yeah.

PN: What was your wife's reaction to you playing sports?

LC: She knew I was into it when we got married. Somehow, I kept getting more involved coaching the kids and helping out in whatever way I could. I guess you know how women are; she'd say, "When will it be your time at home?" We had three kids of our own and my wife would say, "Well, the kids need you at home too." Again, you'd say this is the last year but somebody would come along, some team needed a coach, and I'd be back in business again. I didn't get paid or anything like that, but it was the satisfaction of seeing the kids working out and I enjoyed working with them. My wife put up with it.

PN: She understood?

LC: She understood the situation. Of course, at times, it would irritate her but she got over it.

PN: Would she bring the kids down and watch you practice?

LC: Yes, they used to come. My mother-in-law lived near the playground, so a lot of times she come watch for a while, then go over her mother's. After awhile, she'd come back and we'd all go home together. So in all, it worked out all right.

PN: So after all the practice and everything, and coaching, you come home and eat, then...

LC: Yeah, time go to basketball. But my wife took it pretty well, I would say.

PN: 'Cause I was wondering, gee, you seem so occupied in one sport after another...

LC: Yes, and a lot of work was in between, too. Working for a living. I was already working at Waldron at the time.

PN: Where was that located?

LC: When I first worked at Waldron, they were located across City Mill, uptown.

PN: Yeah, yeah, by Iwilei.

LC: Now they got that building all painted up in fancy colors. That's the building we were originally in. They started in 1941 over there.

PN: So after work you'd just walk home?

LC: Well, at that time, a lot of the boys working there were from our area so we'd just go on home together. That company, at one time, was located in Kakaako. It was right by the gym.

PN: Oh, Kawaiahao gym?

LC: Yes, it was right on Mission Lane, right around in there. When I was working at Honolulu Iron Works, Dutchy Freitas was the foreman out at Waldron Feed Mill, and he offered me a job. I went along and started off carrying bags. Let me tell you, it was pretty rough work. I was almost sorry I took the job! I was a stock clerk at Iron Works.

PN: Work your way up to what you are now.

LC: Foreman, yes. But playing football and practicing and doing that kind of heavy physical work during the day got to be kind of rough at times. We got off work at 4 o'clock, then it was go home, go out to McKinley to run and then practice. I was playing in a 150-pound league and getting kind of heavy to play in it so I had to sweat off my weight. I had to take off something like 25 pounds, so I went on a diet, ran everyday and scaled in every week.

PN: You worked, come home, go out practice, home again.

LC: That was it. When football was over it was the next sport up.... basketball, baseball or whatever.

PN: When you folks got married, where did you folks live?

LC: By that time, my father had died, so we lived at home on Queen Street, with my mother.

PN: This house was rented?

LC: A rented house, yes.

PN: Do you remember who the landlord was?

LC: The Martin family owned the court that we lived in.

PN: This is by where the Portuguese district was?

LC: No, the Portuguese were mostly between Ward and Cooke. They had a string of houses there and a lot of Portuguese lived there. In fact, about three or four families are still there.

PN: Oh yeah?

LC: Yes, they didn't sell them. Those people are still living in those houses.

PN: So where you were living, this Queen Street, what kind of neighbors did you folks have?

LC: All kinds. We had a Japanese family living alongside of us; there was Spanish, Hawaiian, Portuguese and mixtures.

PN: You were close to any of these families?

LC: Everybody was close to each other.

PN: Some of these guys played football or any of the sports?

LC: Dutchy was our coach and he lived in the same court. Donald Martin lived there; he went out for St. Louis and didn't make the team, so he played for us. Then we played an exhibition game with St. Louis and he did so well that they asked him to come out for the school. He went back to the school, made second team all-star.

PN: So he was living by you folks too?

LC: Yeah, his parents were our landlord. And we had Chinese in back of us. Kakaako was a mixture of all different nationalities but there were some areas where....like there were Filipino camps.

PN: Oh, predominantly Filipino?

LC: Yes, mostly. A few outsiders would live within the same vicinity, but the majority of the people would be Filipino. Then there was the Japanese camp and the mixtures that lived around the park, the clubhouse kids, the Portuguese on Queen Street, Filipinos....

PN: I guess when you were married, where did you folks do your shopping and...

LC: We did our shopping in the area. There were two big markets in Kakaako--Yamane Store and Star Market. They were right alongside each other. But we did most of our shopping at Star. At that time, they were called "Kakaako Meat Market."

PN: What about laundry and stuff like that?

LC: They had laundry.

PN: You folks did your own laundry?

LC: Mostly we did our own, yeah. But if we needed any, they had the Ikeda Cleaning Shop. The area had most everything. All the common everyday needs.

PN: You could find most of your needs right around that area?

LC: Yeah.

PN: This is again jumping around, but when you were coaching, you said some of the boys were called "bad eggs," or I don't know, whatever you would call them.

LC: They weren't really bad eggs, but maybe they were a little too rascal. We had couple of kids that were pretty quick tempered. One kid particularly, his name was Manuel Silva--we nicknamed him Dragon--was one of those kids that never hung around anybody, he kept to himself. He had his own thing going on, shining shoes and scrounging around, fights here, fights there. So I talked him into playing basketball. He didn't like the game, said it was no good and all that stuff. He tried to work out with some of the kids. He didn't do too well the first time around, but he came back again and again. He stuck with it. Today he's doing all right for himself. He played for my teams; junior leagues and stuff like that. He played until I finally gave up.

PN: How often did you run across that kind of boy like that?

LC: They weren't the type that would do anything to hurt anybody. I don't mean that they're the type that go around beating guys for nothing. They were perhaps just misguided. Some of them did come out to play sports and to spend time with other kids their age. It maybe gave them some sort of goal.

PN: Did you do anything else, like surfing?

LC: Some of the boys in the area loved surfing. I could play most any sport, but I never could master surfing. I tried and I tried but I never made it, I don't know why. After that, I just didn't care much for it. But I did like to swim down at the pier and the dry dock.

PN: You used to dive for coins, too?

LC: Every now and then we'd go down to the piers for the heck of it. When the Navy boats came in, the sailors didn't seem to have too much money so the divers didn't even fool with them. The divers all went out for the big boats like the Lurline and Matson.

(PN Laughs)

PN: You got anything to add? Covered pretty much what I wanted to cover.

LC: The only thing I would like to say is that it was a pleasure growing up in that area. I enjoyed every bit of it--the good things and the bad. You do have bad things too; it's a part of life. I don't regret whatever I went through. I'd go so far to say if I had my life to live all over again, I'd probably do the same thing. I enjoyed immensely

working with the kids. I didn't do a hell of a lot for them, they did it themselves. Some of the kids became really good athletes, like my brother who went on a barnstorming trip with the Harlem Globetrotters.

PN: Oh yeah?

LC: Yeah. He started basketball with us, fooling around and practicing. He made all-star in the Army football league. Did all right in baseball, boxed a little bit. He was just one example, there were any number of kids who did good for themselves. The ndrades, Edrelin, Chico Miyashiro, they all went on to high school athletics and made names for themselves,

PN: Why would you consider Kakaako kind of close-knit, 'cause during...

LC: People do have their fights and arguments, naturally. But in Kakaako, everybody knew everybody else as a personal friend and a kind of family. As an example, my back neighbor here has been here for about a year. If I saw him on the street, I probably wouldn't know him. We wave or nod to each other whenever we might see each other while working around the yard, but that's it. In Kakaako, it's different. Everybody knows everybody 'cause they've been around each other for so long. Nationality makes no difference whatsoever; Japanese, Hawaiian or Portuguese, you're the same and everybody treats you the same. There is no such thing as taking advantage of anyone because of nationality. Everybody grew up together, worked together, played together. That's what I like about the district.

Please don't get the idea that when we started out in football and other sports that we were good. When we first played, the other guys used to just clean us out. Palama used to just wipe the grass with us. We took a 40-point smashing all the time, but after that, we started to improve and took our place. We just didn't believe in giving up. We went right back and won a string of championships in barefoot. We took care of Palama after that. We always kept good friendships with the other districts, too. We got our differences on the field but that was it; when the game was over, that was the end of it. We'd shake hands and all pau. Next week, we'd see each other, just like any other day, just forget about it. There was no such thing as where you take it out on a guy when you personally don't like him.

PN: Why would you say there was such a big interest in sports?

LC: A lot of the kids were taking interest in sports and naturally, their parents followed. We had an old Japanese man who used to come to the park and watch basketball whenever we were playing. He would sit on the cement and keep his own score with rocks and everybody used to get a big bang out of watching him. He didn't speak too much English, but he seemed to know what was going on. We'd ask him at the end of the game, "O-san, who win?" He would tell us who won.

We would wonder how he did it, 'cause we never had such a thing as a scoreboard.

He would come around the park earlier in the day when we were horsing around, playing, shooting basket or whatever. He'd say, "Game tonight?"

"Yeah, get game, O-san," one of us would say.

"What time?"

"Seven o'clock."

"Okay," he would say. He'd be back at 7 o'clock in his usual spot. People were interested and they liked being involved with the kids.

PN: Why did a lot of youths get involved in sports, from your point of view?

LC: I guess I would say lack of money to run around town, so they'd hang around and play. There was always something going on to keep 'em busy; not only in the playground, but sometimes in Ala Moana Park, too. People would come out to watch for recreation because it was cheap recreation. We also had hard working, dedicated directors.

PN: Think it kept a lot of the youths out of trouble?

LC: I think so. So many good people involved. Like Henry Yamasaki, who was instrumental in the Junior Republic league.

PN: What kind of league is that?

LC: I believe it was a 120-pound football league that he started. Denny Sakauye, who passed away recently, was such a hard worker too. Hoppy Reise, who is one of the younger boys of the group, should be retiring soon. Go-getters, all of them. Annie McShane, who passed away just this year, was so good to all of the kids. Of course, she was just a girl herself, at the time.

PN: Okay, I think we can end it here.

END OF INTERVIEW

BIOGRAPHICAL SUMMARY: CHARLIE CORREA, retired City and County of Honolulu refuse worker

Charlie Correa, Portuguese, was born July 9, 1917, in Kakaako. His father came to Hawaii from Lisbon, Portugal; his mother was born in Kohala.

Charlie attended Pohukaina Elementary School through the 6th grade and later, the Vocational Opportunity School.

His mother and grandmother made Portuguese sweetbread and sausage. The family was active in St. Agnes Catholic Church activities, including the annual Holy Ghost Festival celebration.

Charlie held a variety of jobs including positions as a truck helper, stevedore, worker at Pearl Harbor, and he was with the City and County of Honolulu Refuse Department for 20 years. He currently resides in Chinatown and is active with People Against Chinatown Evictions (P.A.C.E) organization.

TIME LINE

1917	birth: Kakaako
1929	JPO (Junior Police Officer), Pohukaina Elementary School
1935	Hawaiian Construction and Draying (H.C.&D.) truck helper
1948	City and County of Honolulu Refuse Department worker
1960	moved to Chinatown
1968	unemployed

Tape No. 3-10-1-77

ORAL HISTORY INTERVIEW

with

Charlie Correa (CC)

September 14, 1977

Manoa Elementary School, Honolulu, Oahu

BY: Vivien Lee (VL)

VL: This is an interview with Mr. Charlie Correa. Today is September 14, 1977. We're at Manoa Elementary School. Okay. Just for the record, can you tell me when and where you were born, Charlie?

CC: I was born in Honolulu, July 9, 1917. I was born in the Kakaako district. Actually, I was born on Queen Street, between Cooke and Ward Avenue. That's where I was born and raised.

VL: Can you tell me about your parents' background, like where they were born and how they got to be living in Kakaako?

CC: My dad came here, actually to Hawaii, the Big Island. He came with my grandparents, and with my other grandparents, which is my mother's side.

VL: Oh, they both came together on the same boat?

CC: Yeah. So they came here, but actually they went to the Big Island. And at that time, when my dad came here, he was 13 years of age.

VL: Do you know what part of Portugal they came from?

CC: It's from what you call....Lisbon.

VL Oh, big city then...

CC: From St. Michael. When my dad came from Portugal to go to the Big Island, after so many years, he worked in the plantation. And then, meanwhile, my mother was one of the first daughters that my grandmother had. My mother was the oldest. My mother never had much education, the time she was in the Big Island, the time she was born till even when she got married. And when she was married, she never had the education. Because, right from the school, my grandparents--which is from mother's side--took her off school to work in the plantation, the sugar plantation. /Charlie's mother told him that when she worked in the sugar cane fields, she wore pants with a cord tied around each pant leg at the ankle to keep the centipedes from crawling up her leg/ So as my dad. Both of them. So they met there. After so many years, they got married there on the

Big Island. And then while in the Big Island, that's where like we have right now, three from the family that is living. My mom, she had six children. Five were boys, and one girl. /Three died at birth/ So as I was saying we got three that living now. One girl and two boys. And from all of them, my sister is the oldest then comes my brother, and then myself.

VL: Do you know why your parents came to Honolulu from the Big Island?

CC: When they was up the Big Island, they heard about Honolulu. So when they came from the Big Island, they moved right into the Kakaako area.

VL: Straight from the Big Island?

CC: Yeah. While my dad and my mom was in the Big Island, my sister and my brother was born there. And they were kind of big when they brought 'em here to Honolulu.

VL: Big? What, they were school age already?

CC: No, not yet. So finally, they came here. Then for a while my dad had a hard time getting job. So he stood here in Oahu, Honolulu in the Kakaako district. Actually, my parents lived there in the Kakaako district. In the place that we lived, I still remember the electricity at that time. The homes in the Kakaako area was all wooden structure homes. All wooden type homes. And that time, I'd say in the year of, oh, 1927, 1928, something around there, that the lighting of the homes was kind of bad. And we, the people, even the other people that was living in the area plus the other districts, we have to lanterns, oil lanterns during that time.

VL: You didn't have electricity?

CC: Yeah, never had electricity. And at that time, too never had no electric stove or gas stove or icebox or refrigerator, or things like that. It was all old type.

VL: What kind did you have?

CC: Like the stoves were /four burner/ kerosene stoves. And stoves where people make some kind of fire outside in the back of the yard and they cook their food there. /Charlie used to gather wood for the fire in the numerous empty lots that had kiawe or guava trees. The dried branches would fall down and he would take them home and cut them with an axe./ Or they boil their clothes and all that outside, which they were always doing up until the time that the washing machines came out. But during that time, my mom was always washing by hand. Till the time she died, she never wanted a washing machine because she was always used to washing by hand. I wanted to get a washing machine because she was living with me after my grandmother and my dad passed away. She was

living with me and I was taking care of her, and I wanted her to have-- to buy her a washing machine, but she didn't want.

VL: So she would boil the clothes with wood fire underneath?

CC: Well, no. What she used to do, she use the old type washboard, and she used to wash it on the washboard with this some kind of wash soap. It's not powder soap in the box. It's a block. Block soap. And she use to scrub the clothes and then use a brush. And then she scrub it on the washboard, and then she rinse it with the water. She's got two tubs of water. One is the one with the clothes in, and the one that she washes. And then she gets it little more clean, and she throws it in the fresh water. And then she rinse it up. /Charlie later explained more fully: first his mother would boil the clothes in soapy water. She used a large cooking pot, or a round lard can or a square oil can for this. Then she would scrub the clothes over a wooden "wary" (ridged) washboard. After rinsing, she soaked the clothes in clean water with bluing in it. To hold the soapy and rinsed clothes she used either porcelain or aluminum pans./

VL: Did you folks have running water?

CC: Yeah. We had pipe water and all that.

VL: What about your toilets? Was that inside?

CC: Well, actually, I remember that when I was staying there in Kakaako, they still had the toilets outside. We have to go use the toilets outside. But that lasted only about a year. I'd say about a year or year and a half. Then finally, they started running big pipes, and started running sewer lines and things like that. And finally, they started put the toilets in the homes.

VL: About how old were you when they put the toilet in your home?

CC: Well, I was at the age of about 10 or 12 years. About that time.

VL: Did your dad ever find a job in Kakaako?

CC: Yeah. Like I was saying early part, he didn't work for a while. All I know that the job that he had while working there, he died in the job. And that was the last job that he had. And that's the only job that I remember that he had. And the company that he worked for is City Transfer Company. The company itself, at that time, I think he worked about 45 years until his death. And how he died was, he was a custodian at the time because he got into an accident. He and a driver and another guy they were delivering appliance, gas stoves, iceboxes, and things like that. So something happened to the truck up St. Louis Heights. When the driver was coming down, the truck ran away. He couldn't hold his breaks. So he tried to hit the tire against the curb to stop the truck.

But when he did that, the truck climbed the curb and tipped over on the side. The driver got killed. He wasn't too old. And then the two helpers, which was my father, one of them /not his father/ the icebox fell on his back and he was paralyzed for life.

VL: This was a moving company, yeah?

CC: Yeah, that's what City Transfer. And then my dad, he got into an accident. The same thing. When the truck tipped over, he fell down on the side. And the side gate of the truck, well, it's made of wood. So the splinter went right into from /his arm/ from the front of his elbow, from his arm, and to the back bone. So he was paralyzed for a long time.

VL: This company, did they have medical benefits for the workers?

CC: Well, at that time, no. He didn't have. But they had medical insurance where any man would get hurt in the company, the company would take them to the doctor, or take them to the hospital, like that. But on insurance, like that, no. At that time, no.

VL: And about how old were you when that happened?

CC: Well, when that happened, when he died, actually, he didn't die at that time, but when that happened I was about 18 years. That's the time when I started to work.

VL: Is that why you started to work? 'Cause he was disabled?

CC: Well, actually, why I started to work was because during that time, my sister was married. And was only my brother and myself. But the three was kind of hard to make a living. And my brother wasn't working. And only my dad was working. So was kind of hard in the family. So my mom took me out of school, which that time I was about 16 years of age. /After finishing sixth grade, Charlie went to Opportunity (Vocational) School for about two years where he learned carpentry, gardening, basket making and rug making. This was the schooling he had to leave in order to work. His first job, before HC&D was helping his brother-in-law deliver ice for Hawaiian Electric Co./ She took me out of the school, and then my brother gave me a job--I mean, took me to the company, which he was working /at/ already. And he took me to his company, and this company was the first company, first job that I started. I started to work. First big company. It was while I was in Kakaako. The company that I worked for was HC&D Company /Honolulu Construction & Draying/. Their yard was at on South Street, right in the back of the Honolulu Advertiser. And now it's a combined Advertiser and Star-Bulletin. It's right in that area where the press is right now. That's was the yard of HC&D. And that's where I use to report for work there. And our office was right across the street. The building is still there, but the whole place is sold already.

VL: What kind of job did you have there?

CC: My job in HC&D was working down the waterfront, helping the old people, working with them while I was working for a driver, trying to get a driver, steady driver and all that.

VL: What do you mean, helping old people?

CC: Well, you see, what happened that time, we had lot of old people. Was old time people. They worked long time for the company. So the company didn't want to give them any kind of a retirement. And they didn't want to go on retirement or social security or things like that, which that time, the social security was started already. And they didn't want. They wanted to continue work. So that was the kind of old people that I was working with down the waterfront. Then from the waterfront, I went right into working with, I'd say about four or five drivers. And then I ended up with one driver until I quit the company.

VL: Down at the waterfront, what exactly did you do with the old-time workers?

CC: Well, down at the waterfront, while working with the driver, we had a tractor and trailer, it's some kind of a trailer. You hook up to the tractor, and then we use to go down the waterfront and pick up...

VL: What pier?

CC: Well, all over the piers. From Pier 7 to all the way up to Pier 20, down at the waterfront, down at Dillingham area. Let's see, piers on the side of....that's where they have the railroad tracks and all that. And it's right in the front of the railroad tracks, the pier is there. They call that the OR&L piers (Oahu Railroad and Land Co.) at that time. Then actually, we didn't end up there. The last stop that I worked, actually, the pier that I worked in was Pier 35. And it's there yet. Pier is still there yet.

VL: So you had the trailer and the tractor. And what did you do with it?

CC: Yeah. Then we go in the pier. We have some kind of foreman on the pier. And then he calls us. We stay outside because there's a guard by the gate. And then we have to get some kind of a order or something to go in the pier because the guards don't want us all to get in the pier because it would block up all the pier in the inside. And the other trucks can't move around. So the guards would make sure that we were going in and pick up whatever we was going deliver to companies, different companies.

VL: So this was stuff that came on boats and landed at the pier?

CC: Yeah, on the boats, and landed on the pier. And all the cargo used to come from the Mainland, back in the States. All over in the States.

And then used to come to Hawaii, and we used to go down the pier. These companies here use to put in their orders to these companies in the Mainland, and we use to go down the pier and pick up their cargo and deliver it to their place.

VL: That time, never had container loads, yeah?

CC: No. That years, there wasn't any containers around. Wasn't no mechanize like now.

VL: How would you get the stuff from where it was to the truck or the trailer?

CC: How we do work is all by hand. We lift it up from the pier on top the dray or the trailer. And then we push it inside to the back of the dray and we work it from the back, go right up. I mean, from the front, then go right up to the back until we fill the trailer or dray.

VL: Was this stuff in boxes?

CC: Yeah. Lot of the cargo was in boxes, wooden boxes and carton box.

VL: So you would just lift these boxes by hand?

CC: Yeah.

VL: No machines?

CC: Well, there were other things that we had hi-lift from the pier, from the docks. And the guys use to come and give us a hand. We use to put it on top of the skip, and then the hi-lift would lift it up on the skip, on the side of the dray or the trailer. And then we would pull it in into the trailer or dray, into the platform, and we'd take it and we put it on the trailer or the dray. [He remembers that as a child he saw HC&D making deliveries with a horse and wagon. He remembers the company's blacksmith shop where they shod horses. The City & County had a yard where they kept horses in a corral and fed them bales of hay. This was where Mother Waldron Park is now.]

VL: And then you would make the deliveries to the companies?

CC: Yeah. After that, the checker from the Matson, he writes down the numbers and all that. And he knows how many of the things that we got, he knows how many things that we got on the dray. And that afterwards, he ends up with the total. Then the driver from me, he looks at what's the total is. Then he looks at it, and he looks around, checks the load. And he figures it's all right, so he signs. Signs that slip. [Charlie later explained that the number of loads a day would vary depending on where they had to deliver to. If they had to deliver to 5 or 10 different places in one day, they could only load up the truck two times. But if all the day's deliveries were to one business, they saved travel time and could take 4 loads, two before lunch and two after.]

VL: Now were you a driver?

CC: No. No, I wasn't once a driver. But there were times that the driver sometime he used to go to the doctor or sometime he use to do something else, and he use to tell me, you know to let the other trucks go ahead. And then to wait until he come back. And then I use to be over there, and I look, the guard tell me to go in. So I turn around, I drive into that pier with the dray. And I take 'em right up to the part which our checker is and he shows me where. And when I get to the pile, if it's one thing that we loading, I turn around, I set the dray right close to the pile, and then from there, I load the trailer myself. By the time the driver comes back, the dray is all loaded. And lot of time he was surprised when I did that. (Laughs)

VL: You were about 18, you said, yeah?

CC: Yeah. At that time, like I was saying, I just started to work.

VL: That was your first full time job?

CC: Yeah. Actually, when I started was in 1935, when I started in HC&D. And 1937, that's when the social security came here to Hawaii. And when the social security came out, I was one of them that had one of the cards in the social security. And that's why my card that I have, lot of people look at it, and they say, "It's a old card."

VL: At that time, what did social security mean to you?

CC: Well, at that time, I figured that I was young. And then afterward I started think that it would be good because when I get old, then that would be good to help me. That money and all that, because that would be the only income that I would have because at the time when I get old, I cannot do anything.

VL: Do you remember what you were paid for that job, the first job at HC&D?

CC: Well, the first hourly pay that I made there was I'd say about 35 cents an hour at that time. It eventually came up to about 80 cents an hour

VL: How many hours a day did you work?

CC: Well, actually the regular eight hours about 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. with one hour lunch break. And we use to work from Monday to Saturday, even Saturdays, we use to work. And sometime when we busy, we got lot of work, sometime we work on Sunday. Half-day on Sunday.

VL: Would you get overtime?

CC: No, it's a straight time, but they give us, you know, extra money. But it's not overtime like now. Time and a half and things like that. But we only make extra money. Extra hours' pay, the same pay.

VL: What were some of the older workers paid, do you know?

CC: That time, I figured all of the helpers were getting that kind of money. At that time. That was the starting hourly pay that HC&D had. That's why like get back to Kakaako, like I was saying, I was born and raised there.

VL: Could I ask you a few more questions about the job? Do you remember how many trucks, or how many trailers they had in the yard?

CC: Oh, at that time that I got out from HC&D, I think was after the Second World War, because during the second World War, that's where I was working at, HC&D. And then during the attack of Pearl Harbor, that's where I was working, too. And that day, I was supposed to work, but I told them that I couldn't work that day. And that's when that Sunday, December 7, 1941, that's when the attack started on Pearl Harbor. And I was supposed to work. And the job that I was supposed to do was work in the oil dock, to take out from the pier, because they had these oil tankers, and they had these oil drums, and things like that. And they wanted to move that thing away from the pier to take it someplace else, to keep it storage which they use to use that storage, like empty places. Like where lot of tree, lot of bush, where they could cover it up, because the preparation was started for war, because the moment when the attack started, that's when we was at war. Everything went--- I don't say full blast, but that's when everything was started.

VL: So the area where you were supposed to work that day, was that bombed? Hit?

CC: No, it wasn't. It wasn't, no. But like I was saying, that Sunday, when the attack happen, I was supposed to work, but I didn't go work, 'cause that Saturday night, I was drinking a lot and things like that. And I was so drunk that I couldn't go to the job because that Saturday night, before the attack on Sunday December 7, I attended one wedding, a party, some kind of wedding. And then I drank so much that I couldn't go to work the next day, so I stood home. Then I don't know, was kind of early part in the morning, and that's when I heard the shooting, all kind of shooting in the air, and bombing, and all kind. Because actually, when the bombing started, one of the first place that was attacked, right in the Kakaako area was right in the company, HC&D, I was working at. Hit the two buildings, the Advertiser building and the HC&D yard, which was a wall there. And that bomb hit right between there.

VL: So lucky you didn't go then.

CC: Yeah.

VL: For HC&D you were trucker helper, is that right?

CC: Yeah, helper.

VL: Did you ever have any other jobs with HC&D?

CC: No, that's the only job that I was doing, just helper, truck helper.

VL: Did you folks have benefits from that job?

CC: No. Not too many benefits, because they only benefits like....well, same thing like my dad had. Like I was saying that it's only for medical care, things like that. It's no insurance.

VL: What if you're sick?

CC: Sick, well, they send us to the doctor.

VL: And they pay for it?

CC: Yeah, they take care of that.

VL: Even if it's not related to the job sickness?

CC: Yeah, they would do that, too. Yeah. Because mostly, like when the people that works for the company---I know HC&D was one. And my dad's place where he was working, while he was living, City Transfer, both was the same. They had that medical which covers, like I was saying, just the medical part, but it's not the insurance part where we draw something from the insurance company, no. There was paying for medical care. And what this medical care would do is, like the people, the one that works for the company, if some kind of sick or something like inside your body, that kind of sickness, if in case you really have to go to the hospital, the company stands behind the bill. But if you don't have to, and then you stay at home, the company will pay the doctor and the medicine. And sometime, lot of the old people, they use to get sick in HC&D, and they use to stay home, and sick and all, lay in the bed. And they were getting paid. I don't know if it's the full day's pay, but they were getting some kind of money coming everyday.

VL: Did you feel like you were lucky to work at HC&D?

CC: Well, yeah. HC&D was good for me because after I started, and then I started getting used to on the job, I really liked work for the company, because we had all kind of people, all kind of nationalities there working. And, you know, all of the people that was working, they really was good. They work with me. All of them from the old to the ones that was my age, say about 19 and 20. And they were all good working people.

VL: So what you were getting paid for that job, was that enough for you to live on?

CC: Well, like I was saying, my parents had a really bad time. Like only my dad was working, and my brother was working, but both of them

wasn't making too much money. My sister was married, like I was saying. So my mother needed help. So whatever we could get, whatever I could get working, they would accept it. /Charlie later explained that when he first began working for HC&D, the work was not steady. He only worked one or two days a week. Workers had to show up at HC&D every morning and hope that there was work available. Sometimes 10 to 15 men were turned away. You had to "play with the bosses" in order to get favorite treatment. Some workers' parents gave gifts like chickens to the foreman or boss so that their sons would be chosen to work. There were two categories of workers: drivers and helpers. Charlie was a helper. If it was slack, the company would only hire drivers and the helpers had to go home. Or, they would sometimes hire non-drivers to help load at the pier and not help driver. After about six months, Charlie got to know some of the drivers; then they would request him as their helper. Later he got a regular driver and therefore steady employment.

Sometimes construction companies came by the HC&D yard looking for workers not hired that day by HC&D. They would pick up the workers in the trucks, drive them to the company office to "sign up" and then to the job site. This practice was all right with HC&D as long as the workers always showed up at their yard first./

VL: You gave it to her?

CC: Like myself, I would take it.

VL: The house that you were living in, was that the same house as when they first moved to Kakaako?

CC: No, no. That wasn't the first house.

VL: Okay. Can you describe the first house? You said it was wood. Was it two stories or....

CC: No, it wasn't exactly two stories. The house was off the ground. I'd say so many feet off the ground. The house itself was wide spaced out, big. It was something like a hall like, big hall like. There were lot of rooms, kitchen, parlor. Like a dining room, bedroom, things like that. /It was located on the mauka side of Queen Street between Cooke and Kamani Streets on the corner of Cooke and Queen was a rice bagging warehouse, next was a rooming house for single Filipino and Hawaiian men, next was Charlie's first house./

VL: How many bedrooms?

CC: Bedrooms was two. Two bedrooms. And then we use to get that double bed, up and down. The bed that they use on the ships. You know the seamens.

VL: The bunks?

CC: Yeah. In the service, too. Lot of service people use to use that kind of bed. So that's the kind of type of bed that we had that time.

VL: Were you renting that house?

CC: Yeah. That time, my dad and my mom was renting the place, yeah. During that time in Kakaako, where I was born, the rent was cheap. The rent actually, over there was started at \$12 a month. That's for a one bedroom. And then a two-bedroom house was \$18 a month.

VL: Who were you renting from?

CC: Well, they had all kind of landlords that time. They had Portuguese people that owned a lot of homes there in Kakaako. And there were Filipino people that had homes there for rent. Actually, I lived in one of their /Filipinos/ houses, too. But this house that, when I first move in Kakaako, that I was born there, and this home was own by Portuguese people, yeah.

VL: Did they also live in Kakaako?

CC: Yeah, they live in Kakaako for I don't know how many years, because they been living before I was born. And after so many years, both of them, the husband and wife died. Then the son and I think daughters from the owner, the landlord, they took over. And we were still living in the home, in the house yet where I was born in Kakaako.

VL: So when you moved to the second home, where was that second home?

CC: The second home that I moved to /also on Queen Street, just Ewa of the American Sanitary Laundry/, it was into another big home, too. Just like the first home where we came when we came from Hawaii. The third home that we moved into was a big home, just like say a big parlor /again on Queen Street, between his first house and Kamani Street/. Oh, the home was big. Portuguese people use to own that, too. And he had about one, two, I think three other homes for rent. So he had four homes. And his daughter, one of his daughters use to live in one of the homes. And like when the old man died, the mother took over. Then they went to the Mainland. So they left I think the son and the daughter take care of the homes. And we were living there. /Charlie later moved into a fourth and then a fifth home, still on Queen Street. His fifth home was next to a store on the corner of Kamani and Queen Street. It was owned by Filipinos. His first two homes had kerosene stoves and no electrickty. The third and fourth homes had electrickty but still kerosene stoves. The fifth home had electricity; Charlie bought a gas stove./

And while we living in there, we came across something like in the back of the home, our home there. It's some kind of oven. It's a big oven. And you could put breads and, you know, whatever. Anything, meat and all that to roast. And all you have to do is get a fire started under-

neath, and it would heat the oven, and then you could put anything in there to bake or roast or things like that. So what we used to do with that, my grandmother and my mother, they use to use that for making breads. Using the oven for baking the bread, or sweetbread. Actually my grandmother and my mother, they both of them use to make a lot. Especially the sweetbread, see. My grandmother use to sell them. My mother, no. But when she make, it's for all of us and all of the family.

VL: How often would your mother bake bread?

CC: I'd say about once a month.

VL: Oh, once a month? And that would last you all month?

CC: Well, sometime, over a month. I know I seen the bread, I ate it. And the bread at that time when my mother use to make---actually would come out of the oven, bake 'em and come out of the oven and all that, it were a bigger type bread than the breads we have today. What I mean bigger type is the slices, it was bigger. Bigger size.

VL: About how big? [Gestures with hands]

CC: No, no, no, it's not that much. All I say is bigger than the type of slice bread you use today. Actually, it's bigger than the Holsum one. Holsum is a little bigger than Love's. And the bread that Mama used to make was bigger than that.

VL: How about your grandmother, when she sold it, how often would she bake?

CC: Well, if she get lot of orders, like I was saying, she used to sell to a lot of people.

VL: Oh, she sold by orders then?

CC: Yeah. If she have lot of orders then she would make more. She used to make twice a month. And they use to order twice a month. So my mother use to help her, 'cause my mother could make sweetbreads, too. That's what they wanted, sweetbreads. And also, my grandmother, at that time in Kakaako, my grandmother was the first one in Kakaako that made Portuguese sausage. That, even taste, some other people made afterwards. And they were buying for my grandmother fast. So good was. Even the taste of it and everything. The way she make that, even the breads---you know, my grandmother and my mother, both all those things. And they was just buying it so fast. They couldn't keep up, so much the people was buying. That's why I said that my grandmother was the first one to start making Portuguese sausage in Kakaako. Then even the breads, sweetbreads, to mix the ingredients and all that, they use to put all kind of things with the flour and all that. And....

VL: How much would she sell one loaf for?

CC: Oh, I'd say, my grandmother use to sell, I'd say about run from 35 to 50 cents a loaf. And it was big, bigger than the sweetbreads now. Say King's Bakery, thing like that. I think some other bakery makes sweetbread now. But it was bigger, bigger type. Higher. Higher, actually. Even, too, higher than these sweetbreads today.

VL: What kind of people would order the breads? Portuguese only or....

CC: Well, no. My grandmother had all kind of nationalities that ordered. Chinese, Hawaiians. Even the sausages. Portuguese. I'd say all kind of nationality. That's why I say once they tasted the sweetbread or the sausages, they were asking her for make all the time. It was so good.

VL: Did she make the sausages in the house, I mean in her own kitchen?

CC: Yeah. When she make all that things, even the bread, sweetbread, the sausages like that, she mix all the meat, cut it all up. My grandmother. I mean, actually my mother and my three aunties. Because my mother had three other sisters. My grandmother, she had I'd say 1, 2, 3, 4 daughters that I remember.

VL: Did they all live in the same house with you?

CC: No. They live close by. I had two of my aunties that was living right around us where we were staying, where my grandma was staying.

VL: In your actual own house, it was your brother and sister, your mother and father, and your grandmother?

CC: Yeah, that's right.

VL: That's all.

CC: Yeah.

VL: Do you know how she made the sausages? Or where she bought the meat and...

CC: Well, like the meat that she used to...

END OF SIDE ONE.

SIDE TWO.

VL: This the continuation of the interview with Charlie Correa. Okay, you were talking about what the ingredients in the blood sausage was.

CC: Yeah. Like I was saying, first was pork. And then were onions, green leaf onions, and then blood. The blood was any kind, cattle blood, pig blood, and things like that. My grandmother, she used to buy that from C.Q. Yee Hop Market, which is in Chinatown today.

VL: But where was it before?

CC: It's still same place, but now, the place is new. It's a new building now. But the old one, where the new one is today, actually, it's the same market.

VL: How would she travel downtown to get the stuff?

CC: Well, that was before the War. I think 1939 to 1940. That years, you see, we in the city of Honolulu, we use to have streetcars. They call that trolley. Trolley cars, street cars. It run on the track. And then used to have something that hooked up to some kind of wire overhead. And that streetcar, use to have two that operates. Use to be the motor-man and the conductor. That's the only two men that is on this streetcar that operates. So that's the kind of type transportation that they had in the year 1939 to 1940. That was operated by HRT /Honolulu Rapid Transit/. And my grandmother use to go catch the streetcar. But she use to walk from one part of Kakaako. Then she use to walk up to King Street. And that was on the side of Advertiser, on the corner of Kapiolani and King. Way back, they had streetcar stops there. She use to catch the streetcar across the street. And then that streetcar use to go only one way. One way on King. Go one way up and one way, she come back.

VL: So she'd buy the ingredients down there and then come back?

CC: Yeah. When she get off, she get off same place, then she walks back home.

VL: Did you ever help her make the sausage?

CC: No, not me. But my mother and my other three aunties, yeah. They use to help her.

VL: Was that by orders, too, that they made?

CC: Yeah. Was mostly was by orders. We use to buy, too. Although my mother use to make, we use to buy. We help my grandmother out. We use to buy, too, because we use to eat that. Like myself, I cannot. Even that time, I couldn't eat anything hot like the regular sausage, which is made by meat, regular meat, and chili pepper, and things like that is mixed up inside. Salt. And that thing is so hot that I cannot eat that. Too hot for me. Even now. Now, I cannot eat this right now, too, also. So the other sausage, I use to eat sometime. The blood sausage, because it wasn't too hot. Never had much pepper in there. That one, I use to eat. But the regular sausages, my grandmother use to make, I never eat that. My brother, my sister, my father use to eat

that. Yeah. But for me, I never eat the burn one, the hot one.

VL: Yeah. Okay. Let me go back to your school days. You were in school for how many years?

CC: I was in school for about six years. Up to the sixth grade. When I first started school, I attended Pohukaina School. And I started there from the first grade up to sixth grade. That's where the only school I went to up to sixth grade, till now. Pohukaina School, like I was saying, that's all the schooling I got, the education.

VL: What kind of things did you do after school?

CC: Well, actually, during the school hours, lots of times I use to work in the kitchen, help the people in the kitchen with the other boys and girls. Either wash the thing, the pots or either get the things ready for lunch, for the other school children to get lunch and all. Get it ready. And then after that, we would clean up. We would clean up the place. Clean up the stuff, the dishes and all that. Somebody wash. Somebody dries. 'Cause that time, they never had a dishwasher and things like that. Is all by hot water and things like that, the trays.

VL: Would you help them everyday?

CC: No, not everyday, because it was certain time that they would tell us to go to the kitchen and work. Not everyday. And that thing, I use to do during school hour. The other one was I was one of the JPO (Junior Police Officer). That's something like police officer. Directs traffic in the corner, intersections of the---corners of the school outside where early in the morning---I usually go to school early. To go out with the other boys or girls, to go out early before the other school students come to school. So we be there to watch them cross the street. To stop the traffic. And I use to direct traffic in the middle. I use to get a armband. Was more on the armband type. Today, they have it across the chest. But that was armband.

VL: How much traffic did there use to be, though, at that time?

CC: Wasn't much traffic, that years. The traffic was small, slow. Because it wasn't so much cars like today. Today is too many cars. Just like saying, today, the cars they have today, I'd say even the childrens born till they old people, they have one car for every one. In the used car lots and the one that people have. And some in the regular companies, the automobile companies that selling new cars, and right now, the way they get cars ready for sell, like I was saying, they could supply from a baby right up.

VL: Everybody. Yeah. So as a kid for fun after school, what did you do after school then?

CC: Well, after school, actually, I didn't do much. Mostly after school, like I say, that time I was JPO officer, I couldn't do anything because, we use to watch the other students come school, not to have the people who drives the car hit them. And we make sure that all the students is off the school ground. Like when the school is over, we make sure the school ground is empty. And then from there, after that, we turn in, and everything is over.

But like you was saying, what I do after school. Well, during the JPO, I cannot do anything, because it's kind of late, and my parents always, they tell me always to come home early because they want me to get the yard clean. I was the one that usually take care the yard. And when my dad use to come home, he always like the yard clean. So, actually, he gave me that kind of job to keep the yard clean. As long as I clean the yard, he don't care anything else. After that, he say he don't care if I go out and play. But to come back. Don't stay out late.

VL: Did you ever play sports or something?

CC: Well, yeah, I use to play baseball and football, like that. I use to play that kind school sports.

VL: With a team?

CC: Yeah, well, like mostly with challenging schools, different classes. Right in the schools. And sometime---actually, we use to challenge teams from outside of school, from different schools. We use to have some kind of league where all the same kind of class, like elementary. But different schools, yeah.

VL: Okay. Then the other day on the phone, we were talking about the church that you use to go to, St. Agnes?

CC: Yeah. Well, the church St. Agnes, I use to attend that church. Because that was the only church in Kakaako at that time. A lot of people use to go there. The church used to be full. On Sundays use to have two Masses there, sometime they use to have three. So much people that attend. And all kind of nationalities. All kind of people that use to attend. But you see, like in Kakaako, at that time, they had all kind of people that was living in Kakaako that I remember from the year, I'd say---I remember fully from the year of 1937, 1938. And that years while I was working, I remembered that we had people, all kind of nationality. That it was just like a melting pot. Any nationality in the whole world that you could think of, I think we had it all there.

VL: Was there certain areas that were mostly Portuguese? Or mostly Hawaiian?

CC: Yeah. Like we use to have what they call in Kakaako, we use to have camps. It's not the kind of camp that like the Army camps or some

kind of guards, like, do you know the Second World War? They put the aliens behind the fence and all that. No. It's not the kind of camp. The kind of camp I'm talking about is where people are living. They go to work, and they come home from work, they do what they want. They free. And this is the kind of camp. We use to have what they call a Japanese camp. What I mean a Japanese camp is all the people that was living there in that area, it was all Japanese. Not one other outside nationality. That's why we call that a Japanese camp. Because actually, we had people, some Japanese people was outside, but the place was so full that this other Japanese people couldn't go in. But that was called one of the camps in Kakaako. The other one, we call Filipino camp. And we had a big bunch of Filipino people living there. Single, married, with families and all. These two camps, these two kind of nationality, they were the most people during that time in Kakaako; they were mostly all the kind of people. Like Japanese, Filipinos. Got plenty of them.

VL: Where was that camp, Filipino camp?

CC: Filipino camp was more located alongside of the Japanese camp, but it was across the street on Cooke Street. That's what you call....what's that street now? It's that street that runs alongside Mother Waldron Park, on the side of the park. Not in the front. In the front of the park is a school, Pohukaina School. But I think it's called Pohukaina Street. And that street there, from there all the way down to Keawe Street. And then from Keawe Street it's all the way down to alongside the ironworks. That's going towards the pier, Aloha Tower. And Kakaako use to run from there. That's why today, they have a street named for Kakaako. And that's Kakaako Street. It's still there today. So that's where the start of Kakaako, one direction. Then the other direction is Ala Moana.

VL: Ala Moana Center or Ala Moana...

CC: Yeah, Ala Moana Center, too. There were not people living there, but that area, that's where the first---we had the first one-seat plane that landed there. We had a landing field there that we called that Malolo Field. And that was right located below the Ala Moana shopping center. That's the Ward industrial area in the back. Use to be lot of kiawe trees there, and they cleaned that all up, and they made an airport. Malolo was the first one that landed there. Why they named the plane, a one-seater, Malolo because....like the fish in the ocean, when the liner travels, this fish is right alongside the liner when she flies up in the air and she goes down. That's the malolo. And that's why they named the plane "Malolo."

So like I was saying, the other boundary of Kakaako, it runs up to, I'd say, Piikoi Street. From Piikoi Street, runs up to that street on the side of McKinley High School. That's the boundary go up to King Street. Then Kakaako use to end up on King Street, and goes all the way down from King Street, from that area, McKinley High School ground. Because Kakaako, the boys, the high school students, they all attended

there, McKinley High School. All the Kakaako students, boys and girls, they went to there. That's why McKinley High School is one of the first high school, public high school here in Hawaii, in Oahu. Like I was saying, Kakaako area....

VL: And then the last boundary was what?

CC: The last one. Wait, let me see, now. King Street. Yeah, I'd say up to South Street, all that area there. That was all Kakaako that time.

VL: So then, going back a little bit, had the Japanese camp, Filipino camp. Was there any other?

CC: No, that was the only two camps. Like I was saying that they were the most nationality---I mean the nationality that had the most people there. That's why they build the camp there. They put all one nationality live there, because it was so much people of one nationality that they had to make homes like that. And that's why they made camp, two different camps. The Filipino camp was the same. And, well, actually, they call that Filipino camp, but lot of the homes was owned by them. They owned the place. Not all the homes was owned by somebody else. They was paying rent. Lot of the homes there was owned by them. But like I was saying, that, would still call a camp. Because with all the other homes together, that's why we call it a camp.

VL: How about the neighborhood that you lived in? Was it mostly Portuguese around where you lived?

CC: Well, actually, not only Portuguese. They had Hawaiian people. They had Japanese people, Chinese people. My mom, she use to deal with most Chinese people at stores. She use to deal more Chinese people. Even the peddler was more Chinese. She use to do a lot of business, you know what I mean, for the Chinese people. She use to like the Chinese people. That's why the store---she use to buy all her groceries, things what she need. And while we were staying in Kakaako, she use to buy it all there. Then the end of the week when my father get paid, and we get paid, then she go down and pay it.

VL: Did Kakaako as a whole community ever do things together, all the people come together? Was there any big fairs or bazaars like that?

CC: Well, yeah. We had the what do you call in Kakaako. So as lot of other district, like Punchbowl, Kalihi. They call it some kind of fiesta that's held once a year. And we had lot of membership. The people, lot of them is from Kakaako, in the Kakaako area. Because we have a chapel there where the people that live in Kakaako, they build the chapel on that ground. They bought the place, people there. Like my grandparents and all that, they bought that piece of property which was cheap at the time. So they bought that piece of property, and they build this chapel. Until today, that chapel is still there. But it's a new one. All tile. Look nice. It's a nice, beautiful chapel.

VL: What was the name of it?

CC: They call it the Kewalo Holy Ghost. And then it's still open once a year. They have something like they call seven weeks that they open before the feast, the big feast. That big feast, it runs for three days. They have like you pay so much membership dues, and then whatever the dues you pay, it's the Holy Ghost Society. The people that runs the society, which is people from around Kakaako area, they are old people that are officers, things like that. And then we pay dues. In turn when we pay the dues, we have something that comes to us with the dues. And that's during a Saturday morning, before the feast, they have something like they say it's a parade, but it's a procession-like. Church procession. And it's big, though. With all kind of people marching and things like that. So we had that kind of thing that goes on. Like I was saying, when Saturdays, they have this....they deliver to the members---like I was saying that the members pay the dues, but they have something in return. This is the return they have. And it comes on a Saturday morning. And goes to the members. They give the members a bottle of wine, which is pretty good size, white bread, a sweetbread, and a piece of meat, so many pounds. I think that time, the membership dues was just \$4. Even today, they still have it, but it's more higher. Today it's \$6.

VL: A week?

CC: That's for the dues a year. Because that, they hold that, it's only once a year. And when you pay the dues, you have that return to you. Just like say what money you giving just like they giving you back. Something like you buying it. And they giving you back, and they giving more on top of that. Because if you was supposed to go to the store and buy it, would cost you more. And you could imagine what only for \$6. Like now, even they have the same thing, but only for \$6. You go to the store and you try buy that things, you cannot get it for \$6. So even that time, was worth a lot. That \$4.

VL: This was once a year festival?

CC: Yeah, just once a year.

VL: What was the name of the festival? Did it have a name?

CC: Well, you see, the festivals use to be all after saints. Like the Kakaako Holy Ghost was they call it St. Paul. That's was his feast. That's his birthday. That's why we hold the feast for his birthday, St. Paul. That's once a year.

VL: And then, what kind of activities would you do at that feast?

CC: Well, we had all kind of games going on in the place. Then we had like Sundays, we have a auction, big auction that people bring a lot of things from home, and they in turn would have somebody that auction

the thing out. They donate. People from the Kakaako area, and even outside of the Kakaako area. They use to come in and donate all that. They use to give that to help the Holy Ghost, the chapel. So the people could make money to keep up the building, keep up the place. The procession is in the morning. It starts, I'd say around 8 o' clock. All depend, because, before they start the procession, they have all these people go to the church. At that time, like I was saying, St. Agnes Church was the only church that was in Kakaako. That was only parish. And this Holy Ghost, when they use to have the procession, the queen, which is a girl that they crown, they put a crown over her head. And the priest puts the crown. And he bless the crown and everything. That's what they do every year.

But during that time, the whole procession use to go to St. Agnes Church. And after the procession, use to walk around the area. And then they go back to the grounds, and from the grounds they put the things away. After the procession, they have what you call lunch. And when they have lunch, and they have lot of tables that they set with food. And anybody that comes there, no matter what nationality, no matter if they belong, whether they belong to the society or not, they invited. Everything is free. The thing is wide open. Even till today. We still carry that tradition that on the Sunday lunch hour, after the procession, they open the lunch place. Everything is open. They have people right in the back. All you got to do is pick up your plate and they serve to you.

VL: What kind of food?

CC: Well, they have all kind. They have meat, meat and potatoes, salad. They have olive, pickles. Sometime they have some others. Like bake beans and things like that. So they have cold drinks.

VL: And this was way back, long time ago?

CC: Yeah, and even now. But mostly, now, they have meat, salad, potato salad, olives, pickles. That's what they have now. But before they use to have baked beans, you know, extra things that they use to put in. Like roast potatoes like that. Way back. But now, no, they don't do that.

VL: When you were young, you use to go to this every year?

CC: Yeah, I use to go there, and I use to eat that, yeah. Because I use to be in the procession, you know. In one place, in one group. Lot of time, they let the groups go after the---first is the ones like the queen and things like that. Then the old people, then after the old people are fed, then they have the children that goes in. Then after the children is fed, then everybodys. The place is wide open for anybody that want to come in. When the time come, they'll announce. They announce on the speaker that anybody haven't ate to come up, come in and eat some. That everything is free.

VL: In the procession, was it mostly Portuguese people?

CC: No, they had all kind. Like I say, Hawaiians, Filipinos....

VL: All Catholic though?

CC: Yeah, Catholics. At that time, lot of them were Catholics. Even Chinese. They had lot of Catholics. Even today, there still plenty of them Catholics.

VL: When you were in the procession, as a young boy, did you have to wear a certain costume or regular clothes?

CC: Yeah, like altar boy costume. They had one of the saints. Lot of time I use to carry. There was four of us, and we use to use that altar boy. White top and red bottom. And like I was saying, there's four of us. And that saint was called St. Christopher. That saint always go out every year. They never leave that saint inside. Always go out.

VL: A statue of the saint?

CC: Yeah, of the saint. That saint, they have him in the chapel. And every year, that saint have to go out, have to be in the procession. Even the other Holy Ghost, they have that saint out. But now, like I was saying, they build the place up from a wooden chapel. Now it's all tile. And even now we have a big hall, alongside the chapel. The place is all cemented. Nice, the place. The ground is all asphalt. Before use to be grass and dirt. When rain, oh, people use to get bad time during the feast. Somebody use to have to go and get one truck and go down City Mill to get sawdust to fill the water up. But today, no matter what, rain or what---they have shade, too. They have big shade. They don't have to use much canvas. And like I say, no matter what, rain or what, the people is protected when you go there.

VL: You were telling me over the phone the other day that you belong to this club? As part of the St. Agnes Church?

CC: Oh, yeah. Get back to the St. Agnes Church....

VL: The Holy Name Society?

CC: Yeah, the Holy Name Society.

VL: Who was in this, and what was it all about?

CC: Well, the Holy Name Society, at that time, all of us was. My dad, my brother, and myself, because it's a men society. And we were all men, young and old. I was young that time. And when I got in, then had other old people. They had a clubhouse where lot of the boys and girls, they use to go there and spend the time in the evening reading or something

like that. And we use to have a big park that we use to put the light on, and they use to hold volleyball games, basketball games. Sometime football, and things like that. We had a field like.

When our Holy Name Society had the Society Sunday....actually, all today, like /all/ the cathedral, they have a Holy Name Society. St. Patrick's, another one. And I think some other ones that the church is still going on. And I think they have Holy Name Society. Because the Holy Name Society is big in Honolulu. And like I was saying, get back to the St. Agnes Church, like the Holy Name Society, well, this society, always was the Mass, when they hold their Mass--the priest use to hold their Mass--the second Sunday of the month. And that Sunday was only one Mass. It was only held for the Holy Name Society members. But they had about four Masses during the whole Sunday. But that Mass was special for the Holy Name Society.

Like St. Agnes Church, we had some other Sundays. Like the Sacred Hearts Society which is all woman. They had their own Sunday. And then we had the Filipino club, that was belong to the church. They had their own Sunday. I think, 1, 2, 3. Yeah 3 of them. Oh yeah! And even the Hawaiian people, they had their group. They was all Catholic use to attend there. And they had this one Sunday, too. So just like saying all this group of people, not only the Portuguese people, but the other nationality, that they had their group. Was in some kind of society that belong to the St. Agnes Church at that time that when I attended the Holy Name Society in St. Agnes Church.

VL: Do you remember about how many men were in the Holy Name Society?

CC: Well, I'd say the time I was in there, they had about over 700 guys. Sometime, actually, we'd take two rows in the church, two sides. And lot of time we would take the whole church. And the church, St. Agnes Church, it was only one floor. Not upstairs like the cathedral. They have portion in the back, runs on the side and in the back. I mean, actually when you come into this church, over there, you have another floor that you go up, cathedral. But St. Agnes Church, and so as the other churches, too, like St. Patrick's, St. Anthony--Kalihi--all them churches, they all one floor. Was only floor. Like I was saying, when we use to hold our Holy Name Society Sunday, lot of time we use to take the whole church. Over 700 members was in that.

And then we had another society that we started there to keep up the church, you know, to run the church and all that, buy lot of things for the people around there, the people who go to the church, the members and all that. That society, we call that St. Agnes Church Society, after the name of the church. And the people we had there was almost the same people that we had in the Holy Name Society. Almost the same people. Just like saying even if our Holy Name Society members never helped do anything like that, to help bring up the church, but still, when we form the St. Agnes Church, the society there, we were inside of the St. Agnes Church, our Holy Name Society.

VL: You would make repairs or what kind of things would you do?

CC: Yeah. Like, you know, fixing the lights. I mean, sometime the globes burn, get lot of globes to take care. And then lot of times, we use to hold church fairs in there, to raise some money. Every year we use to hold two days. Saturday and Sundays, the two days. And we just had lot of games, not like the Holy Ghost. Different. Only mostly games and things like that. No auctions, you know. Yeah, we use to have dances. You know, like up in the hall upstairs. 'Cause lot of times, our hall alongside the St. Agnes Church, upstairs, which was high, or the steps was kind of high.

And downstairs the basement, we use to hold our meetings, too. You could hold the meetings. It's kind of big. Had two sections downstairs. I still remember. So the church---I mean the clubhouse upstairs, use to have weddings that was held there, parties. In there. People use to hold their weddings in there. Actually, if I'm not mistaken, that's where my sister got married. I mean when she was married, the party was held there, upstairs. Lot of people...

VL: What? You would rent it out?

CC: Yeah. Got to pay it so much for the lighting. And that's all the people would pay for. Not the place. It's just to pay the lights, eh. Whatever they want to offer. Whatever they want to offer, to donate or like that.

VL: Is there anything else about the church that you wanted to say?

CC: I'd say the Holy Name Society, the St. Agnes club or society, we had something like a Boy Scouts for the boys and girls. Cub scouts. We had that kind of group there, too. We had some kind of people that was running that, and that's the kind of group of people that started that Cub Scouts and Boy Scouts like that.

VL: So would you say that most of your activities, outside of work, had to do with the church?

CC: Well, actually, I'd say that, too, yeah. I mean, for the regular activities, yeah. Besides, like I was saying, the early part, the only two sports that I really took part in was baseball and football. And that two sports, even after school, like I was saying that we use to challenge all kind of boys. Baseball. Like the baseball was more on the schools. Football games, we use to challenge on the outside districts and things like that. I use to play on that part. But baseball, on the outside, no. I never played outside. Only in the school, only while going school.

VL: Did you ever hear of this group called the Kakaako Sons?

CC: Yeah, I remember the group. I remember that all, till today, I remember the Kakaako Sons. They were the first team that won barefooted football. What I mean "barefooted" is no shoes on. They run without shoes, they kick without shoes, things like that. And they were the first team that won. Actually, their weight was 150 pounds. And they were the first team that won the championship. Kakaako was the first team that won when they open the barefooted league. Then they had Kalihi, Palama, Hui Eleu. Then they change different name. Olympics. Oh, they had all kind of different names in the teams. But Kakaako Sons is one of the old teams. Even today, well, it's kind of fading away today, fading away. And then they never had only one senior team. They had the junior team that was called Kakaako Sons. And both the seniors and juniors use to take part in football, baseball, volleyball, basketball, all kind of sport they use to take part...

END OF SIDE TWO.

SIDE ONE; TAPE #3-11-1-77.

CC: ...he (Dado Marino) used to train there, too (boxing). Actually the father use to train 'em in the back, in the yard in the back. The uncle, too. The uncles took over when the father died.

VL: This is Dado.

CC: Yeah. Trained him. Then he wen fight amateur. He fought little while, then he fought for Sad Sam Ichinose, eh. And AJA's, Japanese outfit.

VL: You said he was Filipino? Dado Marino?

CC: Yeah, Dado is Filipino. Yeah. Like Carl "Bobo" Olsen, no, he's more, I think, Swedish or something. He's more white, white, yeah. But he's nice built he had. I remember seeing. Even today. He was tall. Middleweight, eh. That's about 160 pounds, no. And he had a good built, solid. He was tall. He was about, I'd say, about six feet. He was really nice built. Solid. What I heard, too, as the years went by, two times he fought the same guy, and the guy beat 'em two times. After that, pau. He quit. Even he lost his title, too. He lost it to David Sands, the guy from Australia beat him. And he tried to regain his---well, I think someday we can continue whatever.

VL: Okay. Go. 'Cause it's....

CC: It's on now?

VL: Yeah, it's on now.

CC: Oh, oh. Then like Carl "Bobo" Olsen, he's really---like I was saying, he had a nice built. So as Dado. Both of them. Like Dado, at that time, when he was boxing, he was working for an automobile company.

The Universal Motors. He was a car salesman, regular salesman for Universal Motors. "Bobo" Olsen, I don't know where he worked for. I don't know actually.

VL: You were saying before the part that didn't get on the tape, that sometimes the employers would give them time off to go train. Can you say that again?

CC: Yeah, like the employer, the boss from the company, they would go talk to the employers that they wanted time off, that they was going to get a fight coming up, boxing match coming up. So they would tell them when. And he'd say, "Oh, in another two weeks." So they turn around, they tell the boss, "Oh, we want three weeks off." "Okay. You want it. Okay." But sometimes, the boss pays 'em. But lot of times, their boss don't pay 'em, but they don't care, because they receiving money while boxing, eh. If they win, they receive more than the one that lose, so they not losing either side, but they making something. Why they do that is just to hold their position, hold their job, to let the boss know. And then once the boss knows, then, you know, they on the clear. They know when they finish boxing, they can go back to work.

VL: And then you said something about no matter what sport at all, that Kakaako came out with the champions.

CC: Yeah. Lot of champions like another one, too, is swimming. Moses Pung. He was a good swimmer. He was a male. And he was from Kakaako. He was Hawaiian. Hawaiian boy. And he was good, he was the champion for one kind of swim meet. I think it's the 420 or something. Or 440. He was fast. Then the other one, the other sport that we had a champion from Kakaako was golf. The name of the person was Jackie Pung, the wife of Moses Pung, the swimmer, champion swimmer. So just like saying, they were a team, husband and wife champion. One swimming, one golf. She won the women's title, Jackie Pung. One year back, I think one or two years. 'Cause they all came from Kakaako, and Hawaiian, both of them Hawaiian.

VL: And why you figure so many good sportsmen from Kakaako? What was special about Kakaako?

CC: Well, like you ask me early part, I say why I think it's special because the way they participate in the sports, they don't stop. They don't go to school. Like Saturday and Sunday, from the morning and they go all the way up as long as the lights open in the park. And they stay right in there, and they playing and playing, playing, playing. They don't give up. They come back home, it's you know, sometimes 11 o' clock. Like I say, as long as the light is open from the park, they keep on playing it. Once the lights close, well, then they go home.

VL: Now did the people of Kakaako in any way support these sportsmen?

CC: Oh yeah, we had plenty---lot of people support them, you know. Different outfits.

END OF INTERVIEW.

REMEMBERING KAKA'AKO: 1910-1950

Volume I

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